

HB 2105 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 5/10, 5/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires school districts to provide children and parents with information and training resources regarding supported decision-making as a less restrictive alternative to guardianship and with strategies to remain engaged in the child's secondary education and post-school outcomes at education program meetings.

House vote: Passed. Ayes, 52; Excused, 6--Levy, Lively, Morgan, Nearman, Reynolds, Wallan; Excused for Business of the House, 2--Nosse, Rayfield.

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Challenges facing students with disabilities as they reach adulthood
- Characteristics of supported decision-making versus guardianship
- Importance of autonomy and quality of life for students with disabilities
- Consensus among stakeholders during policy development process

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Supported decision-making is when a person uses trusted family, friends, or professionals for support to understand, evaluate, and communicate their decisions. Nearly all people have some organic form of supported decision-making to make choices in their lives. When supported decision-making is designed and provided intentionally for an individual with a disability, it can greatly enhance their independence and their capacity for self-sufficiency and self-direction. Supported decision-making has been recognized as an effective, less restrictive and more respectful alternative to guardianship in eleven states and the District of Columbia, and several other states are actively considering legislation.

House Bill 2105 A requires schools to provide training and information regarding supported decision-making when post-school outcomes are discussed with parents and children with disabilities.