

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 4 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Ferrioli, Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Brown

Nays: 0

Exc.: Avakian

Prepared By: Marjorie Taylor, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 6/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows education service district to hire retired public employee as teacher or administrator if primary work duties of public employee are performed in county of not more than 35,000 inhabitants. Allows community colleges to hire retired public employees if duties are performed in a county of not more than 35,000 inhabitants. Provides exception to Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) employment limitations for speech pathologists or speech pathologist assistants. Repeals speech pathologist provisions January 2, 2016. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Shortage of speech pathologists in schools
- Sunset on provisions related to speech pathologists
- Number of counties with fewer than 35,000 residents

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Allows community colleges to hire retired public employees if duties are performed in a county of not more than 35,000 inhabitants. Provides exception to PERS employment limitations for speech pathologists or speech pathologist assistants. Repeals speech pathologist provisions January 2, 2016.

BACKGROUND: Approximately 870 public employers participate in the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), covering about 95 percent of state, school and local government employees. The general rule is that a retired public employee receiving PERS payments may work no more than 1,040 hours per calendar year to continue eligibility for full benefits. However, there are many exceptions, such as police departments in communities with fewer than 15,000 people. Exceptions are given based on the difficulty to fill the positions.

Currently, an education service district (ESD) may hire a retired public employee as a teacher or as an administrator if the retired member is employed by an education service district that has its administrative office located in a county of not more than 35,000 people. HB 2585B changes the language to “employed by an education service district with primary work duties performed in a county with a population of not more than 35,000 inhabitants.”