

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 4 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Metsger, Morse, Westlund, Walker

Nays: 0

Exc.: Kruse

Prepared By: Dana Richardson, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/20, 3/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Expands definition of eligible students for participation in Expanded Options Program. Changes program notification requirements. Provides process for determining duplicate courses and appealing those determinations. Directs school district and eligible post-secondary institution to negotiate in good faith financial agreement for payment of instructional costs. Provides process for parties to appeal to Department of Education to determine whether negotiations were conducted in good faith. Allows a waiver for districts who negotiate in good faith but do not reach an agreement. Allows charter schools to participate in Expanded Options Program. Allows school district to request waiver of requirements of participation in program. Declares an emergency; effective July 1, 2007.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Waiver and opt out provisions
- Technical problems in implementation of the program
- Charter school student participation

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Provides process for parties to appeal to Department of Education to determine whether negotiations were conducted in good faith. Allows a waiver for districts who negotiate in good faith but do not reach an agreement.

BACKGROUND: The Expanded Options Program was adopted by the 2005 Legislature in Senate Bill 300. Its intent is to increase high school and college completion rates by creating alternatives for high school students who need advanced or technical course work that is not offered by their high schools. The program offers students the chance to pursue dual high school and college credits at no additional cost to the student's family and is targeted to at-risk students. The program provides a consistent funding mechanism that limits the effect on any one school's budget and that involves the school and family through the individual learning plan that each participating student must complete.