

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 3 - 2 - 0
Yeas: Avakian, Monroe, Prozanski
Nays: Beyer, Gordly
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Anna Braun, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 2/07, 2/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Changes the definition of “employment relations” in the Public Employee Collective Bargaining Act for those public employees who are prohibited from striking to include staffing levels and safety issues that have a potential impact on the on-the-job safety and workload of the employees.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Inability to bargain safety issues
- Legislative history of SB 750 in 1995
- Cost to government

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Public Employee Collective Bargaining Act (PECBA) provides the process for government employees to bargain with government employers. Under PECBA there are issues that are considered permissive, meaning the parties can agree to negotiate about them, and there are issues that are mandatory, meaning the parties are required to negotiate about them. In 1995, PECBA was amended to exclude mandatory bargaining about staffing levels and safety issues unless they had a “direct and substantial effect on the on-the-job safety of public employees.”

SB 400 amends the PECBA definition of employment relations for those emergency employees who are prohibited from striking. The change would require staffing levels and safety issues that have a potential impact on the on-the-job safety and workload of the employees to be a mandatory bargaining issue.