

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 3 - 0 - 2
Yeas: Monnes Anderson, Prozanski, Shields
Nays: 0
Exc.: Baertschiger Jr, George
Prepared By: Channa Newell, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 2/5, 2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies definition of “supervisory employee” for purposes of public employee collective bargaining law. Specifies that firefighters who assign, transfer, or direct work of other employees, but do not have authority to hire, discharge, or impose economic discipline on those employees, are not supervisory employees. Declares emergency; effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Protections needed for fire fighters
- Distinctions between supervisory employees, non-supervisory employees, and confidential employees
- Potential recruitment difficulties when promotion results in loss of union membership

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Public Employee Collective Bargaining Act (PECBA), enacted in 1973, codifies laws governing employment relations and public employers, and employees in state, counties, cities, school districts, transportation districts, and other local governments, as well as private employees not subject to the jurisdiction of the National Labor Relations Board. Certain persons, including elected officials, persons appointed to serve on boards or commissions, or confidential, managerial, or supervisory employees are prohibited from organizing.

Senate Bill 1518 modifies the definition of supervisory employees to exclude firefighters who assign, transfer, or direct the work of other employees, but do not have authority to hire, discharge, or impose economic discipline on other employees. Such firefighters would then be eligible to organize.