

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 9 - 1 - 1

Yeas: Barton, Fagan, Freeman, Holvey, Kennemer, Matthews, Thompson, Witt, Doherty

Nays: Thatcher

Exc.: Weidner

Prepared By: Jan Nordlund, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/19

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:

- Many attempts in previous sessions to address definition of “supervisory employee”
- Measure does not affect existing exemption for certain nurses
- Firefighter could be a “confidential employee” and thus prohibited from organizing
- Whether firefighters serving in small fire districts and small counties should be treated differently
- Reluctance of some firefighters to take promotion for fear of losing protections

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Public Employee Collective Bargaining Act (PECBA), enacted in 1973, codifies laws governing employment relations, public employers and employees in the 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 employee” 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 those employees. Excluding such firefighters from the definition makes them eligible to organize.