

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Joint Committee On Ways and Means****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** Revenue impact issued**Action Date:****Action:****Meeting Dates:****Vote:****Prepared By:** Doug Wilson, Budget Analyst

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes advisory group to develop uniform budget coding requirements and reporting requirements. This advisory group on January 2, 2016. The State Board of Education is required to adopt rules related to uniform budget coding requirements no later than January 1, 2016.

The bill establishes a work group who is required to identify:

- criteria for determining if school district is not meeting objectives and needs of English language learner (ELL) students, or needs targeted assistance;
- information necessary for school district report on ELL student progress, with specific focus on long-term ELL students;
- technical assistance to be provided by ODE; and
- guidelines for expenditure of ELL program moneys.

The State Board of Education is to adopt rules related to above January 2016. This workgroup is also required to make specific recommendations for best practices relating to ELL students and programs as well as to determine best practices relating to specific support services. The State Board is to adopt rules on this part of the workgroup's work by January 1, 2017. The authority for the work group sunsets on January 2, 2017. An annual report made by each school district relating to ELL expenditures and outcomes, with first filing of report not later than September 1, 2016. The Department of Education (ODE) is required to submit biennial report to Legislative Assembly on results of ELL report.

Updates definition in statute from "English as a second language" to "English language learner" and requires a statewide plan to support ELL students. ODE is directed to identify school district not meeting objectives and the needs of ELL students, or in need of targeted assistance. An account for statewide activities related to ELL programs is established which is funded with a \$12.5 distribution or carve-out from State School Fund. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2015.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Funding mechanism
- Use of funding including staff

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Repeals a one-time distribution language from the State School Fund for 2015-17 which was included in State School Fund bill (HB 5017) which passed earlier in the session. Current language provides for a similar permanent distribution that would include the funding for the 2015-17 biennium.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, under the distribution formula for the State School Fund, students designated as belonging to “English language learning” category receive an additional 0.5 weight, for a total weighted Average Daily Membership (ADMw) of 1.5. Within the broad category of ELL programs, there is no specific restriction, and limited reporting, around how this money may be spent.