

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date:

Action:

Meeting Dates:

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Removes sunset on provisions that allow students whose legal residence is not within school district to attend school in district as resident if student receives written consent. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of open enrollment, beginning with HB 3681 (2011)
- Value of increased transfer options generally to student and parents
- Confusing, complicated nature of existing transfer options
- Wide range of opinions about transfers, open enrollment, among parents, students, school board members, and educators

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

(-3s) Extends sunset on provisions that allow students whose legal residence is not within school district to attend school in district as resident if student receives written consent for five years, through 2022. Requires the Department of Education to convene a work group. Requires work group report to Legislate Assembly no later than December 31, 2021. Specifies contents of report.

(-5s) Extends sunset on provisions that allow students whose legal residence is not within school district to attend school in district as resident if student receives written consent for one year, through 2018.

BACKGROUND:

Currently there are three main methods by which a student may attend public school in another school district that is not the student's resident district: interdistrict transfer (consent); contract (tuition); and, open enrollment. House Bill 3681 (2011) created the open enrollment transfer option, in which only the receiving district must agree to receive transferring students. The provisions of House Bill 3681 creating open enrollment are repealed on July 1, 2017.

Senate Bill 1566 would remove the sunsets on the provisions of law created by House Bill 3681, making those provisions permanent in statute.