

**HB 2957 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Early Childhood and Family Supports**

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**Prepared By:** Zena Rockowitz, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 4/6

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Directs Department of Education (ODE) to award grants to school districts with an elementary school considered high poverty to enable at least one teacher for every 15 kindergarten students. Directs State Board of Education to adopt rules. Appropriates funds to ODE from general fund. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2017.

*FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued*

*REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued*

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-2 amendment: Modifies requirements for schools to receive grants. Requires schools to have a full-day kindergarten program, at least ninety percent of students must qualify for free or reduced lunches under federal guidelines, and the classroom must have capacity to comply. Allows a school district to apply for more than one grant.

**BACKGROUND:**

Research indicates that a high-quality, full day kindergarten experience is critical for short and long-term academic success and strengthening social and emotional skills. Class size reduction programs are a measure of quality, particularly for kindergarten through third grade. Further, class size reduction is associated with greater gains for low income students. The experience and qualifications of teachers and the type of engagement between teachers and students impacts the effectiveness of class size reduction programs. States vary in ratio-requirements for kindergarten to third grade:

- Fourteen states require 1 to 15 to 1 to 18 ratios
- Twelve states require 1 to 20 to 1 to 25 ratios
- Twenty-four states require 1 to 26 to 1 to 33 ratios, ratios based on grade level or no ratios