

HB 3170 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Dembrow

Senate Committee On Rules

Action Date: 06/14/17
Action: Do pass the B-Eng bill.
Vote: 3-2-0-0
Yeas: 3 - Beyer, Burdick, Roblan
Nays: 2 - Boquist, Ferrioli
Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued
Revenue: No revenue impact
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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Extends collective bargaining rights to certain public university faculty members whose duties have academic rather than administrative focus. Prohibits Employment Relations Board from designating bargaining unit as appropriate if bargaining unit includes supervisory faculty member and faculty members they supervise, unless labor organization and public employer agree otherwise. Applies to bargaining units certified or recognized on or after effective date.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Amendments adopted in Senate Education Committee

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

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

In 2014, Senate Bill 1518 was enacted to modify the definition of "supervisory employee" to exclude firefighters who are prohibited from striking and who assign, transfer or direct the work of others but lack authority to hire, fire or impose economic discipline. However, nurses and charge nurses have long been considered non-supervisory under the PECBA and are therefore able to organize and collectively bargain.

House Bill 3170-B excludes from the definition of "supervisory employee" those faculty members of public universities who are not high-level administrators or who have a reasonable expectation of teaching, research or other scholarly accomplishments. By excluding them from the definition of "supervisory employee," faculty members with an academic focus would be permitted to organize under the PECBA.