

SB 1607 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On The First Special Session of 2020

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Meeting Dates: 6/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Extends the sunset for small school districts to receive grants under the Small School District Supplemental Fund until July 1, 2021. Extends the sunset for foreign exchange students residing in school district dormitories to be considered residents of those school districts for funding purposes until July 1, 2021. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The provision that allows children who are foreign exchange students and reside in dormitories operated by certain school districts to be considered residents of those school districts for funding purposes sunsets at the end of the current school year, on June 30, 2020. The State School Fund distribution formula distributes the legislatively appropriated budget to school districts based on the number of students the district has as well as specific characteristics of those students. Districts that host foreign exchange students receive funding for them through the distribution formula. Five school districts currently receive grants for about 40 students.

The provision that appropriates the Small School District Supplement Fund \$2.5 million per school year for small school district grants sunsets at the end of the current school year, on June 30, 2020. These grants are designed to provide some additional operating revenues to districts with statutorily defined small high schools. Currently there are around 80 school districts that qualify for these grants.

Senate Bill 1607 would extend the sunset on both provisions to July 1, 2021. Upon passage, it provides for continuity of operations between sunset dates.