

SB 580 -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Business and Labor

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Meeting Dates: 5/19, 5/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands definition of employment relations to include class size and caseload limits as mandatory subjects of collective bargaining for school districts.

Fiscal: Statement issued

Revenue: No impact

Senate vote: 17-11 (Nays: Anderson, Beyer, Boquist, Findley, Girod, Hansell, Johnson, Knopp, Linthicum, Robinson, Thomsen)

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-4 Limits mandatory bargaining of class size and caseload limits to those issues in schools that qualify for assistance under Title I of federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

BACKGROUND:

The Public Employee Collective Bargaining Act (PECBA), enacted in 1973, codifies the laws governing employment relations between 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. Under PECBA, both the public employer and the labor organization are required to collectively bargain in good faith with respect to employment relations, which are defined as including, but not limited to, matters concerning direct or indirect monetary benefits, hours, vacations, sick leave, grievance procedures, and other conditions of employment. Other subjects may be bargained as long as there is mutual agreement to discuss these permissive subjects of bargaining. Since passage of Senate Bill 750 (1995), class size has been a permissive subject of bargaining. From 1989 until Senate Bill 750 went into effect, class size was a mandatory subject of bargaining. Prior to 1989, class size was a permissive subject of bargaining.

Senate Bill 580 makes class size and caseload limits mandatory subjects of school district collective bargaining.