

SB 580 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Clem

House Committee On Business and Labor

Action Date: 05/24/21

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 7-4-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Bynum, Clem, Evans, Fahey, Grayber, Holvey, Witt

Nays: 4 - Bonham, Boshart Davis, Breese-Iverson, Post

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Jan Nordlund, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/19, 5/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of class size as a mandatory subject of bargaining
- Other states that treat class size and caseload as mandatory subjects of bargaining
- Outcome in Portland Public Schools where class size and caseload were bargained
- Whether student outcomes improve with smaller class sizes and lower caseloads
- Targeting Title I schools
- Level of funding suggested by Quality Education Model
- Use of Student Investment Account to reduce class sizes and caseloads
- Focus on equitable outcomes

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

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. Between 1989 and 1995, class size was a mandatory subject of bargaining. Before and after that time, the topic was and is a permissive subject of bargaining.

Senate Bill 580 A makes class size and caseload limits in Title I schools mandatory subjects of school district collective bargaining.