

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5357

AS REPORTED BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 1, 1993

Brief Description: Requiring contractors for school employment service contracts to provide health care and retirement benefits commensurate with those provided for classified employees performing similar services.

SPONSORS: Senators Pelz, Sutherland, Jesernig, Snyder, Gaspard, Fraser, Moore and Quigley

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5357 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Pelz, Chairman; McAuliffe, Vice Chairman; Gaspard, M. Rasmussen, Rinehart, Skratek, and A. Smith.

Staff: Leslie Goldstein (786-7424)

Hearing Dates: February 8, 1993; March 1, 1993

BACKGROUND:

School district boards of directors have the authority to contract out for services including services such as transportation and janitorial services.

SUMMARY:

A school district or an educational service district, when contracting with a private provider for services that had formerly been performed by classified school employees, shall require the contractor to provide health and retirement benefits commensurate with the benefits provided by the district for the contractor's employees performing services under the contract. The requirement does not apply to contracts for services previously performed by employees in director/supervisor, professional and technical positions. The requirement does not apply to service contracts that are temporary, do not continue, or will not recur.

EFFECT OF PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE:

It is clarified that when a school district enters into a contract for services formerly performed by classified school employees, the contract must contain a clause requiring the contractor to provide similar benefits to those provided for school employees.

Appropriation: none

Revenue: none

Fiscal Note: available

TESTIMONY FOR:

Contracting out for services hurts classified employees. This legislation would provide equity. Private employers frequently do not provide the same benefits as do school districts and it gives them an advantage in submitting proposals for contracting out services.

TESTIMONY AGAINST:

School districts have the responsibility to make the best use of their scarce resources. Unnecessary restrictions should not be placed on contracting out services.

TESTIFIED: PRO: Diane Jones, Bobbie Passant, Michell McIntyre, Jill Raffelson, Kathy Maddux, Lynn McKinnon, Public School Employees; David Westberg, Operating Engineers; Randy Parr, Service Employees International Union; CON: Marcia Costello, Washington Assn. of School Administrators; Tom Dooley, Assn. of Washington Business; Dwayne Slate, WA State School Directors