

HOUSE BILL ANALYSIS

HB 2179

Title: *An act relating to open public meetings of school boards regarding impasses in collective bargaining.*

Brief Description: *Requiring open public meetings of local school boards regarding impasses in collective bargaining.*

Sponsors: *Representatives Hickel and Johnson.*

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Meeting Date: *March 3, 1997.*

Bill Analysis Prepared by: *Pat Shelledy (786-7149).*

Background: *The Legislature has granted certificated employees of Washington's public schools the right to enter into collective bargaining agreements with regard to wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment. Current statutes pertaining to collective bargaining include provisions regarding determination of bargaining units, identification of exclusive bargaining representatives, impasse options, and unfair practices.*

Either the employer or the bargaining representative may declare an impasse in negotiations and may ask the public employees relations commission to appoint a mediator to help them reconcile their differences. Negotiations are not open to the public.

Summary of Bill: *Within ten days of either party declaring an impasse, the local school board must hold a public meeting at which the issues that at impasse are to be distributed and discussed.*

Fiscal Note: *Requested on February 26, 1997.*

Effective Date: *Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.*