

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6129

As of April 20, 2009

Title: An act relating to fiscal matters..

Brief Description: Relating to fiscal matters.

Sponsors: Senator Prentice.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Ways & Means:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Staff: Elise Greef (786-7708)

Background: Initiative 732, adopted by voters in November 2000, provides that an annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) is granted to K-12 teachers and other public-school employees, as well as to academic employees of community and technical college districts and classified employees of technical colleges. The COLA is based on the Seattle consumer-price index (CPI) compiled by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Senate 2009-11 operating budget proposal passed by the Senate Ways & Means Committee on April 16, 2009, assumes savings of \$362 million in K-12 and of \$35 million in higher education through the temporary suspension of Initiative 732.

Summary of Bill: The bill as referred to committee not considered.

Summary of Bill (Proposed Substitute): Existing statute is amended to allow for the temporary suspension of cost-of-living increases for school-district employees during school years 2009-10 and 2010-11, and of academic employees of community and technical college districts and classified employees of technical colleges during fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

Beginning in the 2011-13 biennium and thereafter, the Legislature must provide, on an expedited basis and to the extent financially feasible, additional cost-of-living allocations necessary to regain the level of funding that would have been achieved without the suspension.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The bill contains an emergency clause to allow the effective date to match the effective date of the 2009-11 Omnibus Appropriations Act (July 1, 2009).

Appropriation: None. However, savings associated with the bill are assumed in the Senate Ways & Means adopted 2009-11 operating budget.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: None.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect on July 1, 2009.