

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6116

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As of February 3, 2016

**Title:** An act relating to educational employees' benefits and compensation during strikes and work stoppages.

**Brief Description:** Prohibiting the use of sick leave benefits, compensation, or health benefits for educational employees during a strike or work stoppage.

**Sponsors:** Senators Sheldon, Baumgartner, Hewitt, Braun, Rivers, Becker, Ericksen, Schoesler and Honeyford.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Commerce & Labor: 5/19/15.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & LABOR

**Staff:** Jarrett Sacks (786-7448)

**Background:** Current law requires every school district board of directors to fix, allow, and order paid salaries and compensation for all certificated school district employees.

**Summary of Bill:** Funds appropriated for teacher compensation, including salary and fringe benefits, cannot be expended during the time an employee engages in a strike or work stoppage.

School districts may require a signed statement from a licensed health care provider that an employee's absence was due to illness or injury.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

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

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: Students need to be educated, and strikes harm their education. Teacher strikes put burdens on families. This bill is part of a good approach

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to solve the issue. Small business taxes go to schools, and those same businesses are forced to scramble due to strikes.

CON: Teachers work hard for many hours and deserve to be paid accordingly. The strikes are a means to get paid what they deserve.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Gary Smith, citizen

CON: Heather Gow, elementary school student; Su Gow, parent.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** No one.