
Education Committee

HB 2458

Brief Description: Concerning optional benefits offered by school districts.

Sponsors: Representatives Stonier, Sells, Dolan, Schmick, Boehnke, Bergquist, Vick, Pollet and Wylie.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Specifies that school district optional benefits may not compete with any basic or
- optional benefits offered through the School Employee's Benefits Board.
- Grants school districts express authority to offer employee-paid, voluntary benefits to
- school employees that are paid by employees through a payroll deduction, and
- provides examples of those benefits.
- This is a change.
- Includes intent language and a legislative finding that supplemental fixed payment
- insurance plans offer financial protection and do not conflict or compete with basic
- medical or disability plans.

Hearing Date: 1/20/20

Staff: Megan Wargacki (786-7194).

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

Background:

School Employees' Benefits Board/Offerings and Participation.

The School Employees' Benefits Board (SEBB) of the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) designs and approves insurance benefit plans for school employees and establishes criteria for participation in insurance benefit plans. Among other duties, the SEBB: develops school employee benefit plans that include comprehensive, evidence-based health care benefits for school employees;

This change.

authorizes premium contributions for a school employee and the employee's dependents in a manner that encourages the use of cost-efficient health care systems; and determines the terms and conditions of school employee and dependent eligibility criteria, enrollment policies, and scope of coverage.

Summary of Bill:

Provisions governing the optional benefits that school districts may offer to employees are modified. Optional benefits offered by a school district, rather than being required to be outside the SEBB's authority, must instead not compete with any basic or optional benefits offered through the SEBB. School districts are granted express authority to offer employee-paid, voluntary benefits to school employees that are paid by employees through a payroll deduction. Examples of these benefits include:

personal lines homeowners insurance;
private passenger automobile insurance; and
accident only, specified disease, and other fixed-payment benefit insurance.

Appropriation: The sum of \$. Added more things

Fiscal Note: Requested on (12/30/2020).

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on 01/25/2022.