

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5497

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As of January 12, 2022

**Title:** An act relating to extending voting authority to student members on the state board of education.

**Brief Description:** Extending voting authority to student members on the state board of education.

**Sponsors:** Senators Wilson, C., Nobles, Conway, Das, Hunt, Lovelett, Lovick, Nguyen, Saldaña and Wellman; by request of State Board of Education.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Early Learning & K-12 Education: 1/12/22.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Grants voting privileges to student members of the State Board of Education.
- Modifies the quorum requirement from eight voting members to nine members.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

**Staff:** Benjamin Omdal (786-7442)

**Background:** State Board of Education. The 16-member State Board of Education (SBE) is comprised of five members elected by geographic regions by school board directors, one member elected by private school directors, seven members appointed by the Governor, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and two non-voting student members selected in a manner determined by the SBE.

The SBE has various duties and powers prescribed in statute, including:

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- providing advocacy and strategic oversight of public education;
- establishing high school graduation requirements or equivalencies;
- identifying scores students must meet to achieve standards on statewide assessments; and
- approving and accrediting private schools according to requirements established by the SBE.

All members except the student members are voting members. Eight voting members of the Board constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

**Summary of Bill:** All members of the SBE are considered voting members, including student members. The quorum requirement for the transaction of business is changed from eight voting members to nine members.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 5, 2022.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

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