

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 5497

C 44 L 22

Synopsis as Enacted

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

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Wilson, C., Nobles, Conway, Das, Hunt, Lovelett, Lovick, Nguyen, Saldaña and Wellman; by request of State Board of Education).

Senate Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education House Committee on Education

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:

- 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: 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.

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.

A student member must excuse themselves from voting on matters directly relating to graduation requirement changes that apply to the student's school and graduating class. If a student member excuses themselves, eight voting members of the board constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	28	21
House	60	38

Effective: June 9, 2022