



Legislative Council Staff

Research Note

Version: Final

Date: 4/26/2017

Bill Number

House Bill 17-1176

Sponsors

*Representative Becker J.
Senator Sonnenberg*

Short Title

*PERA Retirees Employed by
Rural School Districts*

Research Analyst

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Status

This research note reflects the final version of the bill which becomes effective upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

Background

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) identifies 147 of the 178 school districts in the state, or about 83 percent, as rural districts. The department defines rural school districts based on a district's size, the distance of the district from the nearest large urban area, and on a total enrollment of 6,500 students or less. Small rural districts are those districts that meet the size and location criteria of rural districts and have a student population of less than 1,000 students. Based on the October 2015 student count, 38 school districts meet the definition of rural and 109 districts meet the definition of small rural.

House Action

House Finance Committee (March 6, 2017). At the hearing, a number of individuals testified in support of the bill, including representatives of the Colorado Education Association, the Colorado Association of School Executives, and Secure PERA. One individual representing Colorado PERA testified in opposition to the bill. The committee adopted amendment L.006, which adds a reporting requirement and limits the eligibility of a teacher who retires early from being rehired under the provisions of the bill by the district where he or she taught until two years after the date of retirement. The committee also adopted amendment L.007, which clarifies whether a retiree employed under the provisions of the bill can accumulate additional PERA service credit, increase his or her highest average annual salary, receive a health care premium subsidy, or participate in an employer health plan. The committee referred the bill, as amended, to the House Appropriations Committee.

House Appropriations Committee (March 21, 2017). The committee referred the bill to the House Committee of the Whole.

House second reading (March 31, 2017). The House adopted the House Finance committee report and passed the bill on second reading, as amended.

House third reading (April 3, 2017). The House passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.

Senate Action

Senate Education Committee (April 19, 2017). At the hearing, a number of individuals testified in support of the bill, including representatives of rural school districts, the Colorado Rural Schools Alliance, and the Colorado Northeast Board of Cooperative Education Services. One individual representing Colorado PERA testified in opposition to the bill. The committee adopted amendment L.013, which changes the repeal date of the new provisions added in the bill from 2028 to 2023. The committee referred the bill, as amended, to the Senate Committee of the Whole.

Senate second reading (April 24, 2017). The Senate adopted the Senate Education committee report and passed the bill on second reading, as amended.

Senate third reading (April 25, 2017). The Senate passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.

Relevant Research

CDE Website, Rural Education Council, <https://www.cde.state.co.us/ruraledcouncil>

A Rural Needs Study: Improving CDE Services to Rural School Districts (January 2011), <https://www.cde.state.co.us/ruraledcouncil/ruralneedsstudy>