

HCS HB 1238 -- PUPIL ATTENDANCE AT NONRESIDENT SCHOOLS

SPONSOR: Haley

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 19 to 1, with 1 voting present. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 8 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1238.

Currently, school districts cannot charge tuition for the children of any teacher employed by the school district if their resident district is outside of the school district they are working. Additionally, such students count as resident pupils for the purpose of state aid for the school district they are attending.

Beginning with the 2025-26 school year, this bill expands who can qualify for this tuition waiver and state aid qualification and allows any child whose parent is a contractor or regular employee in an education related field of a nonresident school district to attend the school district if the school district accepts the student without paying tuition and to count as a resident pupil for the purpose of state aid.

School districts can require documentation from contractors and impose a minimum number of days worked, up to 60, in order to qualify for these benefits.

Districts do not have to provide transportation for the accepted students and if the parent of the student is no longer employed or contracting with the school the student may finish the current school year without paying tuition or being required to leave.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will allow students of contracted workers like bus drivers and cafeteria workers to be able to attend the district that their parent works at. This will increase the number of workers willing to commute to smaller schools where the demand is increasing.

Testifying in person for the bill was Representative Haley.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that contractors and schools may collude for fraud and this could lower the attendance for resident schools.

Testifying in person against the bill was Arnie C. Dienoff.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.