
Education Committee

HB 2398

Brief Description: Requiring parent representation on instructional materials committees.

Sponsors: Representatives Walsh, Couture, Eslick and Jacobsen.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires, rather than permits, school district instructional materials committees (IMCs) to include parents of students in a number equaling less than one half of the total membership of the IMC.
- Includes an exemption to the requirement for school districts with fewer than 2,000 students that are unable to recruit parents to serve on an IMC.

Hearing Date: 1/23/24

Staff: Ethan Moreno (786-7386).

Background:

School district boards of directors (school boards) must have policies for the selection and deletion of instructional materials. The policies must comply with specified requirements, including:

- stating the school district's goals and principles relative to instructional materials;
- delegating responsibility for the preparation and recommendation of teachers' reading lists and specifying the procedures to be followed in the selection of all instructional materials;
- establishing an instructional materials committee (IMC) to be appointed, with the approval of the school board, by the school district's chief administrative officer. Each IMC must consist of members of the school district's professional staff and may include parents at the school board's discretion, provided the number of parent members on an IMC is less than one half of its total membership; and

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- providing a system for receiving, considering, and acting upon written complaints regarding instructional materials used by the school district.

Recommendation of instructional materials are to be made by the IMC in accordance with school district policy, but final approval or disapproval decisions must be made by the school district board of directors.

Summary of Bill:

School district instructional materials committees (IMCs) must, rather than may, include parents of students in a number equaling less than one half of the total membership of the IMC. An exemption to the requirement is included for school districts with fewer than 2,000 enrolled students that are unable to recruit parents to serve on an IMC.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.