



Testimony before the
House Committee on Judiciary
on
SB 418 - Amendments related to human trafficking, children in need of care and juvenile offenders

by

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Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

We appear as neutral on the major substance of these bill. However, it contains provisions concerning school finance that we oppose, and would urge the committee remove if the bills are advanced.

Under **SB 418**, if a child placed under the Child in Need of Care or Juvenile Justice Act is enrolled in a different school district than the one where the child has been enrolled, district funding is adjusted as following (using the same formula as included in SB 410):

First, for each month the child is no longer enrolled, the district shall pay to the state an amount equal to the general fund budget of the district, excluding moneys held in the special education and related services fund, the special retirement contributions fund, the capital outlay fund or the bond and interest fund of the school district, the proceeds of any tax levied by the school district and any federal funds, for the current school year divided by the total enrollment of such school district for the current school year divided by 12.

Second, for the months the child is enrolled in a different district, the new district would be paid an amount based on the same calculation above for the previous district.

KASB objects to these provisions for the following reasons:

- The funding is based on the average state aid that each district receives, not the actual funding per child. A student in a high wealth district that receives little state aid will “transfer out” less money than a student in a low wealth districts that receives much more state aid. The same is true for the new district.
- The bill does not establish to what extent the transfer of the child would result in higher costs to the new district or reduce costs to the original district. If there is no difference in staffing or other costs, one district is receiving more funding that it needs and another district is losing money with no reduction in costs. Teacher salaries are contracted for one full school year.

- The bill is completely reversed from the philosophy of the block grants for all other students. When districts receive more students, they do not receive additional aid; and do not lose money if they lose enrollment.
- We believe this issue should be addressed under a new school finance formula to replace the block grants, not added piecemeal to the block grant system.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these issues.