

From the Desk of
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HB 2345 School Board Members "Conflict of Interest"

Proponent testimony in favor of this bill

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

Having served on a local school board (USD 396) for over 10 years, I have experienced having a board member being married to a principal of the district. We also have board members family being employed in the district in a non teaching position. This created some difficulty in board discussions concerning compensation, and renewal of contracts.

Although this individual may have not voted for or against the compensation or employment issue before the board, the perception of fairness was there and seemed to be a conflict of interest. We must also look at the transparency of the issue. Did the board member vote for increased compensation because his family member would benefit from this increase? School Board members should not be placed in this position.

More and more districts are facing their board members having direct conflict of interest issues, as spouses of district employees are becoming board members. Many of these district employees are in a collective bargaining union and their family member is sitting on the board which creates a conflict of interest and may be against state law.

This bill will correct this conflict of interest, and would protect our local school district from having to deal with this situation. Thank you for your consideration and for hearing this important issue.

Sincerely,

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