



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2005 Senate Bill 68

**Senate Substitute
Amendment 1 and
Assembly Amendment 1**

Memo published: April 21, 2005

Contact: Russ Whitesel, Senior Staff Attorney (266-0922)

Currently, a school district may enter into a five-year, renewable student achievement guarantee (SAGE) contract with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to reduce class size to 15 pupils in grades kindergarten to three in exchange for receiving state aid equal to \$2,000 for each low-income pupil enrolled in grades eligible for SAGE funding.

Original Bill

Senate Bill 68 would have permitted a school district to choose not to comply with the requirement to reduce class size in grades two or three and to forgo the aid that it would have received. The amount of foregone aid would have been lapsed to the general fund and appropriated to supplement the payment of special education aid.

Senate Substitute Amendment 1

Senate Substitute Amendment 1 makes technical changes to 2005 Senate Bill 68 to clarify that a school district may choose not to reduce class size in grades two or three or both, and if it so chooses, it will still receive aid under the SAGE program for those grades in which it chooses to reduce class size. As in the original legislation, the amount of foregone aid is lapsed to the general fund and appropriated to supplement the payment of special education aid.

Assembly Amendment 1

Assembly Amendment 1 to Senate Substitute Amendment 1 provides that the option to choose not to reduce class size in grades two or three, or both, is only available in those school districts in which no more than 50% of the pupils are eligible for a free or reduced-price lunch under federal law.

Legislative History

Senate Bill 68 relating to SAGE contracts was introduced on February 17, 2005 by Senator Olsen and others, cosponsored by Representative Towns and others and referred to the Senate Committee on Education. Senator Olsen offered Senate Amendment 1 on March 8, 2005. A public hearing was held before the Senate Education Committee on March 22 and an executive action was taken on March 28, 2005. The Senate Committee reported adoption of Senate Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 4; Noes, 3 on March 30 and recommended passage on the same day by the same vote.

On April 5, 2005, the Senate adopted Senate Substitute Amendment 1 on a voice vote and passed the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 19; Noes, 13. The bill was referred to the Assembly Education Committee on April 12, 2005. That committee, in an Executive Session held on April 19, 2005, voted to introduce Assembly Amendment 1 to Senate Substitute Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 11; Noes, 0. The committee voted to adopt Assembly Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 7; Noes, 4. The committee then voted to recommend concurrence in the bill, as amended on a vote of Ayes, 7; Noes, 4.

RW:wu:rv