

SB 53 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 4/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines low incidence disability. Requires State Board of Education (SBE) to develop a method for funding programs for children with low incidence disability and repeals provision allowing school districts to contract for provision of program. Repeals language relating to low incidence disabling conditions. Requires Department of Education to study special education programs provided on a local, county, or regional basis. Establishes requirements for study. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2021.

Senate floor: Passed. Ayes, 26; Nays, 3--Boquist, Heard, Linthicum; Excused, 1--Johnson.

No fiscal impact.

No revenue impact.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, regional programs for children with low incidence disabilities serve children ages 0 to 21 who require specialized services and meet eligibility requirements. The types of disabilities that would allow a child to be eligible include hearing impairments, vision impairments, autism spectrum disorders, orthopedic impairments, deaf-blindness, and traumatic brain injury. Because the occurrence of these types of disabilities is relatively rare, school districts find it difficult to employ specialized staff in these areas. Senate Bill 53 A requires the State Board of Education to study low incidence disabilities.