

SB 355 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Andersen

House Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 05/17/23

Action: Do Pass the A-Eng bill.

Vote: 9-1-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Andersen, Chaichi, Conrad, Kropf, Lewis, Morgan, Reynolds, Tran, Wallan

Nays: 1 - Bynum

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 5/16, 5/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs a public university to annually make available on the university's website a report describing the university's use of outside counsel for legal matters. Removes the requirement for a public university to report to the Attorney General on same.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of the current law
- Transparency measure
- Use of outside counsel varies by university, but is usually used when special expertise is needed, for litigation, or for an independent opinion
- Would standardize online posting for all state universities and simplify the reporting process
- Process for hiring outside counsel

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 355 A directs a public university to annually make available on the university's website a report describing the university's use of outside counsel for legal matters and removes the requirement for a public university to report to the Attorney General on same.