

SB 472 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Prepared By: Chris Bechtel, LPRO Fellow

Meeting Dates: 3/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires a school board member to abstain from a vote if an actual conflict of interest is present, even if their vote is necessary to take official action. The measure tasks education service district boards with adjudicating complaints that an entire school board violated the conflict of interest rule. If the education service district board finds that the school district board violated the section, the school district can appeal to the State Board of Education. The measure provides penalties for failing to comply with the conflict of interest rule.

Fiscal impact: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

Revenue impact: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Under [current law](#), if an elected public official serving on a board or commission has a conflict of interest the official must state the nature of the conflict. If the conflict is one in which the public official would have a direct impact on their financial interests, the public official must state the nature of the conflict and the public official must not participate in discussion, debate or vote on the issue. There is an exception if the public official's vote is necessary to take an official action: the member may vote, but the member may not participate in the discussion or debate.