

SB 310 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 2/17, 4/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure allows one party in a public education labor dispute to petition the Employment Relations Board to appoint a fact finder.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of collective bargaining disagreements
- Divisiveness of process
- Ability of both parties to agree on numbers
- Public's right to know
- Potential cost of increased use of fact finders

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

From November 1, 2023 until November 26, 2023, the Portland Association of Teachers and Portland Public Schools (PPS) reached an impasse in the collective bargaining process. In the resulting strike, students in PPS lost 11 days of instructional time. Representing around 3,700 teachers in Portland Public Schools (PPS), the Association sought higher wages and lower class sizes. The two sides in the negotiation disagreed about the amount of funding available to the district and the cost of proposals. On November 7, 2023 Governor Kotek suggested that the parties meet with the state's chief financial officer and other state officials to mediate the disagreement.

In 1995, the legislature enacted Senate Bill 750, which enacted a requirement that both parties in a public employment labor dispute must jointly request a factfinder.