

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, January 14, 2016
2:00 p.m., Senate Hearing Room 1

Members Present:

Senator David Bradley, Co-Chair

Senator Steve Yarbrough

Dr. Kelly Anderson

Aiden Fleming, Superintendent's designee

Marcia Karls

Representative Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair

Representative Lisa A. Otondo

Alicia Miller

Caryn Plummer

Andrea Weck-Robertson

Members Absent:

Michelle Wood

Staff:

Catcher Baden, Senate Research Analyst

Aaron Wonders, House Research Analyst

Co-Chairman Bradley called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. and attendance was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Senator Bradley stated that without objection, the minutes of September 23, 2015 were approved.

Bill Draft Review

Catcher Baden, Senate Research Analyst, gave an overview of the draft legislation and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Discussion

The Committee discussed the bill draft and recommendations for changes to the language.

Kym Wilbur, representing herself, expressed her concerns regarding student age versus grade level and program exit requirements, and the reevaluation process. Ms. Wilbur requested clarification regarding IEP and evaluation requirements.

Mr. Fleming addressed Ms. Wilbur's questions.

Jane Fackelman, representing herself, addressed her concerns regarding students who will exit the program before new legislation takes effect and recommended reviewing the evaluation process.

The Committee discussed the need for and process of creating language to address students who will exit the program before legislation takes effect.

Katie Wride, representing herself, stated her concerns over the need for an emergency clause for students exiting the program this year, the frequency of reevaluations and proper representation to the Committee of families she represents.

Janice Palmer, Arizona School Boards Association, discussed the districts' right of first refusal.

Senator Bradley summarized the issues discussed.

The Committee discussed the need to clarify exit requirements and what is looked at during evaluations.

Katherine Visser, representing herself, addressed her concerns about the draft legislation's language regarding graduation requirements and about students who will exit the program before legislation takes effect. Ms. Visser read questions from a concerned parent regarding the qualifications of those determining who stays in the program.

The Committee gave final comments.

Recommendation by the Committee

Representative Brophy McGee moved the Committee recommend the state enact legislation similar to Folder 541 dated December 8, 2015, distributed January 6, 2016. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 10-0-1 (Attachment 1).

Attached is a list noting the individuals who registered their position on the agenda item (Attachment A).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Imee L. Andrew
Committee Secretary

(Audio recordings and attachments are on file in the Secretary of the Senate's Office/Resource Center, Room 115. Audio archives are available at <http://www.azleg.gov>)