

SUBJECT: Extending certain exceptions related to bilingual education programs

COMMITTEE: Public Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 12 ayes — Buckley, Allen, Allison, Cunningham, Dutton, Harrison, Hefner, Hinojosa, K. King, Longoria, Schaefer, Talarico

0 nays

1 absent — Cody Harris

SENATE VOTE: On final passage (May 15) — 31 - 0

WITNESSES: None (*considered in a formal meeting on May 18*)

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that extending the exception for school districts to offer a bilingual education program would give teachers more time to earn the necessary certifications for bilingual instruction.

DIGEST: SB 2518 would extend the period of validity of a granted exception to the requirement that a district use a bilingual education program from one to three years. An application for an exception for a second or succeeding period could be for the same teacher or a different teacher as in the preceding period.

The bill would apply beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2023.