BILL SUMMARY

2nd Session of the 55th Legislature

Bill No.:

Version:

Request Number:

Author:

Speaker Hickman

Date:

5/24/2016

Impact: Dependent on schools' availability of facilities

Potential cost to school districts if additional
facilities are needed

Potential cost to Attorney General's Office

Research Analysis

Pending

Prepared By: Marcia Goff

Fiscal Analysis

SB 1619, as introduced, relates to schools and provides new law which includes a definition of "sex", and allows for certain accommodations for a student if a school district has designations for the exclusive use of student restrooms, athletic changing facilities or showers. A student enrolled in such school district or the parent or guardian may request a religious accommodation for the use of restrooms, athletics changing facilities or showers designated for the exclusive use of that student's sex. Providing access to a single occupancy facility in these areas will not be an allowable accommodation.

Further, this act creates a private right of action for certain violations, and the Attorney General is authorized to represent a school district or employee in a specified legal challenge. The Attorney General is also authorized to intervene in any legal proceeding to enforce the provisions of the act. And, any court addressing a suit arising out of the law, within five days of receiving service of summons, must notify the Attorney General of the pendency of the action.

Current information on related school district facilities is not fully available. Any potential costs would be dependent on a school's need to provide facilities for any of these required accommodations. In addition, potential costs may be realized by the state's Attorney General as related to this act.

Prepared By: Andrea Kearney

Other Considerations

None