

One Hundred Fourth Legislature - Second Session - 2016

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB781

Chairperson: Senator Kate Sullivan

Committee: Education

Date of Hearing: January 26, 2016

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

It is evident parochial schools educate a significant number of students in the State. Over the years numerous bills have been introduced to provide some form of state aid to parochial schools. Testimony fairly consistently contains veiled suggestions that without state support they may have to close or curtail service. The closure of a parochial school could have a sudden and unexpected burden on the school system in which it is located yet, currently, there is no requirement for parochial schools to provide notice of a school closure or that services will be curtailed. LB781 would require an assessment of the amount a parochial school closing would cost local school districts and suggests these mechanisms of preparation:

- Add sufficient staff and facilities necessary to accommodate students attending parochial schools;
- Build significant cash reserve so funds are on hand to absorb the shock of a parochial school closure; or
- Pay essentially an insurance premium to parochial schools to remain open for a defined period of time and give adequate notice of closure before curtailing services.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Paul Schumacher