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HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 22, 2025

TESTIMONY OF ALLYSON HICKS  
OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1288

Chairman Heinert, members of the Committee.

I am Allyson Hicks, Assistant Attorney General, General Counsel Division, and I appear on behalf of the Attorney General opposed to HB 1288 without additional resources as discussed below.

I serve as the General Counsel for the State Board for Public School Education, however, I appear in my capacity as the Political Subdivision portfolio holder for my office. In that role, I answer reference questions from all political subdivisions in the state that reach out to my office, including school districts, as well as field citizen questions or concerns regarding political subdivisions that come into our info box. Often times my job just involves pointing an attorney or school official to a relevant case or opinion or connecting a citizen with the appropriate contact at the local level to address their concerns. This bill proposes resolving issues raised by citizens in a much more in-depth fashion.

HB 1288 would add several legal duties related to the Office of Attorney General, including the following:

- Reviewing and investigating the information submitted by an interested person (P. 1, lines 16-17)
- Determining whether a school district is in compliance with the alleged education related state statutes (P. 1, lines 17-18)

- Dismissing requests for review if the review exceeds the purpose of the bill (or if the request fails to meet the requirements of the state board of public school education) (P. 1, lines 19-21)
- Advising the school district of the findings (P. 2, lines 1-3)
- Providing instructions to the school district on how to comply with the education related state statute (P. 2, lines 1-3)
- Communicating with the school district and requesting individual throughout the process
- Defending the findings in any resulting adjudicative proceeding.

This would require an additional education-focused attorney in the General Counsel Division. The FTE with benefits would amount to \$284,188 per biennium at a salary of \$102,000.00. Without additional resources allocated to my office, my office respectfully recommends a DO NOT PASS on HB 1288.

I would stand for any questions.