HF163 - Omnibus Education Policy Bill

House Research Summary

Summary of key provisions

Functional behavior assessment: Allows a school district to conduct a functional behavior assessment (FBA) as a standalone evaluation without conducting a comprehensive evaluation of the student.

Alternative Delivery of Specialized Instruction Services: Allows a student who receives special education services to participate in Alternative Delivery of Specialized Instruction Services (ADSID). Under current law, a student with an individualized education program cannot receive ADSIS services in addition to special education services.

Respectful treatment, school meals: Requires districts to provide meals to participating students in a respectful manner and conform to the school meals policy. Prohibits certain reminders of outstanding meal balances and prohibits limiting student participation in school activities due to unpaid student meal balances. Requires the commissioner to send a letter of noncompliance to a participant that does not provide meals to participating students in a respectful manner, and the participant to respond and remedy the practice within 60 days.

Fuel contracts: Clarifies that contracts for fuel or transportation are not subject to the two-year term limitation for most school district contracts for services or goods.

Referendum notice timelines: Increases the earliest that a school district may deliver a notice of an upcoming operating referendum election from 30 to 45 days prior to the date of the election.

Cultural competency: Adds cultural competency to list of items evaluated under teacher development and evaluation and principal evaluation.

Pupil withdrawal records: Requires all schools to send pupil withdrawal records, as well as any services a student needs to mitigate inappropriate behavior, to another school to which a student is transferring. These are in addition to current requirements to send various academic and disciplinary records.

American Indian regalia and items of cultural significance: Requires school districts to allow American Indian students to wear regalia and objects of cultural significance at graduation ceremonies.

Mental health awareness training: Adds requirement for renewal of a Tier 1 teacher license that Tier 1 teachers be trained in mental illness the same as currently required of Tier 3 and 4 teachers.

WBWF: Adds a requirement that WBWF include strategies for providing student access to culturally relevant or ethnic studies curriculum; education effectiveness practices that integrate inclusive and respectful learning and work environments and promote a culture that retains qualified racially, ethnically, and linguistically diverse staff.
Teacher mentorship taskforce: Establishes a teacher mentorship task force to gather information and design a model teacher mentorship program for use by school districts.

Verification of age for admission to public school: Aligns with federal guidance that a school district may not require a birth certificate to enroll in a public school. Allows for other mechanisms for verifying student age.

Early learning scholarships: Makes several changes to early learning scholarship administration:

- Clarifies that a child who receives a scholarship who has not completed development screening must complete development screening within 90 days of first attending an eligible program or within 90 days after the child’s third birthday if awarded scholarship under the age of three.

- Further delays a requirement for programs to have a three- or four-star Parent Aware rating to receive early learning scholarships.