

Labor

AB 95 – Teacher Prep Time

Rep. Sinicki

Summary of Bill:

Assembly Bill 95 creates a new mandatory subject of collective bargaining under the Municipal Employment Relations Act (MERA) in school districts. The school district would be required to bargain collectively with respect to time spent during the school day, separate from pupil contact time, to prepare lessons, labs, or educational materials, to confer or collaborate with other staff, or to complete administrative duties. Under current law, prep time is a permissive subject of bargaining, meaning one primarily related to the management and direction of the employer, so an employer may, but need not, bargain over this subject.

Fiscal Effect:

The Employment Relations Commission (ERC) states that if AB 85 becomes law it is probable that teachers' unions will seek increases in the amount of preparation time currently received. If successful, more teachers will be needed and costs will increase if school districts wish to maintain their current level of service.

Supporters Message:

- Many districts already address prep time in some manner, but are vulnerable to losing it as long as it remains a permissive subject of bargaining.
- Teachers are left with little or no time in the day to prepare for classroom instruction and to meet the other demands on their time.
- Quality of classroom instruction suffers when teachers are not given enough time to prepare for lessons.

Opponents Message:

- AB 95 will lead to increased contact time away from students.
- The result will be costly for school districts, forcing them to increase class sizes, and/or hire more teachers. However, with limited resources the most likely scenario will be the reduction of programs and classes.
- Will have the effect of requiring districts to bargain collectively over how *any time* is spent during the school day.
- By the authors' own testimony, a majority of districts already address prep time in some manner. This decision is best left up to each school district to determine what works best.

Key Supporters:

Representative Christine Sinicki (author); Senator Jon Erpenbach (author); AFT-Wisconsin; WEAC.

Key Opponents:

WI Association of School Boards; WI Association of School District Administrators. Registering on the GAB web site: Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials; Association of Wisconsin School Administrators; Wisconsin Council for Administrators of Special Services.

Committee Vote:

On April 16, 2009, the Assembly Committee on Labor recommended passage of AB 95 on a vote of 5-3-1 [Honadel, Nass, and Knodl voted No; Soletski absent]

Ranking Member Author of Bill Summary

Jason Vick; Office of Rep. Mark Honadel (6-0610)