

HOUSE BILL ANALYSIS

SSB 5176

Title: An act relating to refusals to leave school property.

Brief Description: Authorizing the arrest of persons who willfully refuse to leave school grounds after being ordered to do so.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Senators McAuliffe, Eide, Long, Costa, Goings, Oke, Winsley and Rasmussen).

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Meeting Date: March 18, 1999.

Analysis Prepared by: Charlie Gavigan (786-7340).

Background: Current law makes it a gross misdemeanor for someone to refuse to leave public school grounds when ordered to do so by a school official based on the school official's belief the person is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, is interfering with a school function, or is causing or threatens to cause a disturbance. Law enforcement officials typically have discretion in carrying out their duties.

Summary of Bill: A law enforcement officer may arrest without a warrant anyone the officer has probable cause to believe has wilfully refused to obey a valid order by a law enforcement officer to leave school grounds based on the officer's belief the person is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, is interfering with a school function, or is causing or threatens to cause a disturbance.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.