

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 58th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 783
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Author:	Sen. Pugh
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Bill Analysis

SB 783 modifies provisions of the Education Open Transfer Act. The measure directs the State Department of Education by Dec. 31, 2021, and each December 31 thereafter, to publish a list establishing the capacity of a class for each grade level in kindergarten through twelfth grades for three tiers of school districts:

- 1) districts with an average daily attendance (ADA) of more than 1,500 based on the first 9 weeks of the current school year,
- 2) districts with an ADA of more than 500 but fewer than 1,500 and
- 3) districts with an ADA of 500 or fewer.

The measure directs capacity of a class for each grade level to be determined by dividing the total ADA for each grade level in each tier by the corresponding number of full-time instructional staff assigned to each grade level in each tier. Additionally, the measure requires each school district by March 1, 2022, and each March 1 thereafter to post on its website the capacity for each grade level for the ensuing school year as well as the number of transfers a district can accept before reaching capacity. It directs each school district board of education to adopt an open transfer policy that includes the capacity for each grade level for the ensuing school year. It allows the policy to include certain discipline issues and a history of absences as reasons for denial of a transfer.

The measure directs the modified transfer provisions to apply for the application period ending May 31, 2022, and each period thereafter. Students may be granted a 1-year provisional transfer, which may be denied in the subsequent year for discipline or absence issues. All school district boards of education must submit to the State Board of Education by June 30, 2023, and each June 30 thereafter the number of student transfers approved and denied for the preceding school year. The measure states that if the number of transfer applications exceeds a district's capacity, the district is to hold a public lottery selection process. The measure allows a denied transfer application to be appealed to the State Board of Education within 10 days of such denial. Additionally, the measure directs a receiving school district board of education to approve emergency transfers, rather than the State Board of Education.

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