

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 58th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 783
Version:	CS
Request No.:	1853
Author:	Sen. Pugh
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Bill Analysis

The CS for SB 783 modifies the Education Open Transfer Act. It states that beginning Jan. 1, 2022, the transfer of any student from one district to another shall be approved at any time during the year unless the number of transfers exceeds the capacity of a grade level for a school site within a district. If the number of transfer applications exceeds the capacity of a school site, the school district is to select transfer students in the order in which they were received. It allows a student to be granted a one-year transfer, with the school district retaining the ability to deny the continued transfer if the student has a history of absences or has committed certain acts that are subject to out-of-school suspension. The bill prohibits a student from transferring more than twice per school year to one or more districts.

The measure directs each school district board of education by Jan. 1, 2022, to adopt a policy to determine the number of students a district has the capacity to accept in each grade level for each school site. It directs such capacity to be established by the first day of January, April, July and October, and it directs school districts to post the capacity information on their websites and report it to the State Department of Education. It allows a denied transfer request to be appealed within 10 days to the receiving school district board of education. If the receiving school district board of education denies the appeal, the bill allows an appeal to be filed within 10 days to the State Board of Education. It directs each school district board of education to submit to the State Department of Education the number of student transfers approved and denied and the reason for denial, and it requires the Department to publish the data on its website and share it with the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability.

The measure directs the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability to randomly select 10% of the districts in the state to conduct an audit of approved and denied transfers. If the Office finds inaccurate reporting of capacity levels, the bill directs the Office to set the capacity levels. The bill removes language regarding the transfer application timeline. It clarifies that students who are the dependent children of a member of the active uniformed military services of the United States on full-time active duty status and students who are the dependent children of a member of the military reserve on active duty orders are to be eligible to enroll in any school district regardless of the district's capacity. It removes language allowing a receiving school district to approve the transfer of a student whose parent or legal guardian is employed as a teacher. It also repeals statutory language regarding emergency transfers.

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