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COMPULSORY ARBITRATION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL DISPUTES

House Bill 4050

Sponsor: Rep. David Anthony

**Committee: Labor and Occupational
Safety**

Complete to 9-14-97

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4050 AS INTRODUCED 1-8-97

The bill would amend the law that requires compulsory arbitration of labor disputes in municipal police and fire departments (Public Act 312 of 1969) to add public schools to the act's compulsory arbitration requirements.

Public Act 312 states that "[i]t is the public policy of this state that in public police and fire departments where the right of employees to strike is by law prohibited, it is requisite to the high morale of such employees and the efficient operation of such departments to afford an alternate, expeditious, effective, and binding procedure for the resolution of disputes, and to that end the provisions of this act, providing for compulsory arbitration, shall be liberally construed." Under the act, whenever the mediation of a public police or fire department employee's dispute doesn't resolve the dispute to the agreement of both parties within 30 days after submission of the dispute to mediation, either the employee or the employer may initiate binding arbitration.

The bill would add public schools to the act's declaration regarding employees whose right to strike is prohibited by law, and would add disputes between public schools and their employees in the section of the act providing for binding arbitration when mediation didn't resolve a dispute within 30 days after submission of the dispute to mediation. (The bill would define "public school" to mean "a school district, intermediate school district, or public school academy, or a joint endeavor or consortium consisting of any combination of school districts, intermediate school districts, or public school academies.") The bill also would make various technical changes in language, including adding "school" fiscal year to the section of the bill currently referring to new municipal fiscal years with respect to the initiation of arbitration procedures under the act.

MCL 423.231 et al.

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