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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/5/08

SPONSOR Papen LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Study Duty-Free Lunch Periods SJM 30

ANALYST Cox

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

| Appropriation |      | Recurring<br>or Non-Rec | Fund<br>Affected |
|---------------|------|-------------------------|------------------|
| FY08          | FY09 |                         |                  |
|               | NFI  |                         |                  |

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Public Education Department - PED

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 30 requests the Public Education Department (PED) with the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) and Office of Education Accountability (OEA) to study the feasibility of requiring a forty-five minute, duty-free lunch period for all elementary instructional personnel statewide.

The Joint Memorial notes that the Secretary of Education, in cooperation with the Office of Education Accountability, report recommendations, including cost estimates, to the Legislative Education Study Committee and the Legislative Finance Committee by November 2008.

Copies of this memorial should be transmitted to the Secretary of Public Education, the Office of Education Accountability, the Legislative Education Study Committee and the Legislative Finance Committee.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This study can be conducted by the PED, with the LESL and OEA, with existing staff.

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PED notes:

- Law provides that teachers shall not be required to perform non-instructional duties except in emergency situations as defined by the PED. Non instructional duties are noon hall duty, noon ground duty and noon cafeteria duty.
- Most teachers are given 30 minutes for lunch. In elementary schools, a teacher's lunch period does not equal 30 minutes of duty-free time based on the need for him to take students to the lunchroom and pick them up at the end of their lunch period. The result is that teachers have 15 minutes or less for eating lunch.
- Research has shown that rapid eating is associated with a number of health concerns and issues, such as insulin resistance, high blood pressure, obesity, high cholesterol and acid reflux.
- Rapid eating can contribute to chronic stress, which can ultimately create physical symptoms such as chronic headaches and increased susceptibility to colds and influenza.
- Being required to eat rapidly and in a stressful situation on a day-to-day basis can exacerbate the stresses associated with the stressful job of teaching.

## TECHNICAL ISSUES

- Increasing duty-free lunch from 30 to 45 minutes would alter the daily schedule of schools. The administrative school code may need to be changed. See Section 6.30.2.10. H. 3.

PRC/mt