HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary =

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Subject: Grievances under police and fire labor contracts

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Overview

Creates a new procedure for offers to settle grievances involving the interpretation or application of labor contracts covering peace officers and firefighters. This bill applies only to grievance arbitration, not to interest arbitration.

Section

Offer of settlement. Provides that a public employer or a union may make a written offer to settle a grievance concerning the interpretation or application of a labor contract covering peace officers or firefighters. This section applies only to grievance arbitration, not to interest arbitration.

An offer under this section must be made at least 10 days before a grievance arbitration hearing begins. Specifies the method and effect of making an offer.

Provides that if the arbitrator's award is not more favorable to the party receiving the offer than the terms of the offer, the person receiving the offer must pay all of the arbitrator's fees and also must pay the offeror's costs, including attorney fees. Provides that disputes about interpretation of this section may be submitted to the arbitrator who ruled on the merits of the grievance or to another arbitrator, if the original arbitrator is not available.