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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1710**

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**State of Washington                      55th Legislature                      1997 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives McMorris, Cole and Kessler)

Read first time 03/04/97.

1            AN ACT Relating to technology grants; adding new sections to  
2 chapter 28A.650 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that prudent use  
5 of technology can result in increased student learning. Further, the  
6 use of technology is an emerging technique in the educational process,  
7 and there is a need to test new approaches of its use through pilot  
8 projects in order to establish effectiveness and details for  
9 educational best practices.

10           The legislature also recognizes that special circumstances can  
11 occur and selected school districts may need temporary assistance to  
12 acquire equipment and provide opportunities for staff to acquire skills  
13 necessary to effectively use technology to improve student learning.

14           School districts are currently allocated resources for nonemployee-  
15 related costs sufficient for purposes of basic education. The purpose  
16 of this act is to provide temporary assistance beyond basic education  
17 for technology needs of qualifying school districts through conditions  
18 established in this act.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    To the extent funds are provided in the  
2 omnibus appropriations act, technology grants shall be provided to  
3 qualifying school districts, consortia of school districts, or  
4 educational service districts.    School districts and educational  
5 service districts are eligible for grants if they either have an  
6 ongoing program emphasizing specific approaches to learning assisted by  
7 technology or are identified by the center for the improvement of  
8 student learning based on best practices and:

9        (1) The school district shall match state funds on a fifty percent  
10 basis with a combination of:

11        (a) Contributions through partnerships with technology companies,  
12 educational service districts, institutions of higher education,  
13 community and technical colleges, or any other organization with  
14 expertise in applications of technology to learning that is willing to  
15 assist school districts in applying technology to the learning process  
16 through in-kind assistance; and

17        (b) School district funds;

18        (2) The district has plans and means for evaluating the short and  
19 long-term student learning resulting from the technology-based  
20 strategies of the district; and

21        (3) The school district's planned use of technology shall be linked  
22 to the essential academic learning requirements pursuant to RCW  
23 28A.630.885.

24        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    (1) Priority for award of funds awarded under  
25 section 4 of this act will be to (a) school districts most in need of  
26 assistance due to financial limits, (b) school districts least prepared  
27 to take advantage of technology as a means of improving student  
28 learning, and (c) school districts in economically distressed areas.  
29 The superintendent of public instruction, in consultation with the  
30 technology education committee created in section 4 of this act, shall  
31 propose options to the committee for identifying and prioritizing  
32 districts according to award criteria in (a) through (c) of this  
33 subsection.

34        (2) Options for review criteria to be considered by the  
35 superintendent of public instruction include, but are not limited to,  
36 free and reduced lunches, levy revenues, ending fund balances,  
37 equipment inventories, and surveys of technology preparedness.    An  
38 "economically distressed area" is (a) a county with an unemployment

1 rate that is at least twenty percent above the state-wide average for  
2 the previous three years; (b) a county that has experienced sudden and  
3 severe or long-term and severe loss of employment, or erosion of its  
4 economic base to decline of its dominant industries; or (c) a district  
5 within a county which (i) has at least seventy percent of its families  
6 and unrelated individuals with incomes below eighty percent of the  
7 county's median income for families and unrelated individuals; and (ii)  
8 has an unemployment rate which is at least forty percent higher than  
9 the county's unemployment rate.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The superintendent of public instruction  
11 shall appoint a technology education committee to develop an  
12 application and review process for awarding the technology grants  
13 established in section 2 of this act. The committee shall be appointed  
14 by the superintendent and shall consist of representatives from  
15 technology companies, technology coordinators representing educational  
16 service districts, school districts, higher education, and other  
17 relevant occupations. The superintendent shall select the chair of the  
18 committee.

19 (2) The technology committee shall identify the priority of  
20 projects and level of funding to the superintendent of public  
21 instruction. To the extent funds are available, the superintendent  
22 shall award technology grants according to the priority listing of  
23 districts recommended by the technology education committee.

24 (3) Projects funded through awards under this section may be part  
25 of multiyear projects extending beyond the effective dates of  
26 appropriations provided for the purposes of sections 2 through 4 of  
27 this act if the district commits to maintaining the project with  
28 matching funds beyond the funding period of the appropriations act  
29 funding the project.

30 (4) Subject to available funding, the superintendent of public  
31 instruction shall award the first round of projects by July 1, 1997.  
32 No more than fifty percent of funds provided for awards under this  
33 section may be awarded in the first round of awards.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The superintendent of public instruction, in  
35 consultation with the appropriate committees of the legislature, shall  
36 specify the data that projects need to report in order for the  
37 superintendent of public instruction to provide a progress report to

1 the legislature by December 15th of each year for which an  
2 appropriation is provided for sections 2 through 4 of this act.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 2 through 5 of this act are each  
4 added to chapter 28A.650 RCW.

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