
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5627

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators McAuliffe, Clements, Tom, Weinstein, Rockefeller, Oemig, Kastama, Hobbs, Pridemore, Eide, Franklin, Shin, Regala, Marr, Murray, Spanel, Hargrove, Kline, Kilmer, Haugen, Kohl-Welles and Rasmussen)

READ FIRST TIME 02/08/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to basic education funding; creating new sections;
2 and declaring an emergency.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The state's definition of basic education
5 and the corresponding funding formulas must be regularly updated in
6 order to keep pace with evolving educational practices and increasing
7 state and federal requirements and to ensure that all schools have the
8 resources they need to help give all students the opportunity to be
9 fully prepared to compete in a global economy. The work of Washington
10 learns steering committee and the K-12 advisory committee provides a
11 valuable starting point from which to evaluate the current educational
12 system and develop a unique, transparent, and stable educational
13 funding system for Washington that supports the goals and the vision of
14 a world-class learner-focused K-12 educational system that were
15 established in the final Washington learns report.

16 This act is intended to make provision for some significant steps
17 towards a new basic education funding system and establishes a
18 technical work group to address the details and next steps beyond the
19 2007-2009 biennium that will be necessary to implement a new

1 comprehensive K-12 finance formula or formulas that will provide
2 Washington schools with stable and adequate funding as the expectations
3 for the K-12 system continue to evolve.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Washington state institute for
5 public policy shall staff a joint task force to review all current
6 basic education funding formulas and develop a new funding structure,
7 and all necessary formulas, that is realigned with the new expectations
8 of the state's education system as established in the November 2006
9 final report of the Washington learns steering committee and the basic
10 education provisions established in chapter 28A.150 RCW.

11 (2) The joint task force shall consist of thirteen members:

12 (a) Four members shall be legislators. The president of the senate
13 shall appoint one member from each of the two largest caucuses of the
14 senate. The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint one
15 member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of
16 representatives;

17 (b) The chair, who shall have business experience, experience with
18 Washington finance issues including knowledge of the K-12 funding
19 formulas, and who shall be appointed by the governor;

20 (c) The superintendent of public instruction or the
21 superintendent's designee; and

22 (d) The president of the senate and the speaker of the house shall
23 submit recommendations to the governor and the governor shall appoint
24 the remaining seven members.

25 (3) The Washington institute of public policy shall consult with
26 stakeholders and experts in the field to develop information for use by
27 the joint task force.

28 (4) In developing the recommendations, the joint task force shall
29 review and build upon the following:

30 (a) Reports related to K-12 finance produced at the request of or
31 as a result of the Washington learns study, including reports completed
32 for or by the K-12 advisory committee;

33 (b) High-quality studies that are available; and

34 (c) Research and evaluation of the cost-benefits of various K-12
35 programs and services developed by the institute for public policy as
36 directed by the legislature in section 607(15), chapter 372, Laws of
37 2006.

1 (5) The institute for public policy shall provide to the joint task
2 force the following:

3 (a) An initial report within sixty days of the effective date of
4 this section establishing an initial plan of action, reporting
5 deadlines, a timeline for fulfilling the requirements of section 3 of
6 this act, and an initial recommended timeline for a phased-in
7 implementation of a new funding system that does not exceed six years;

8 (b) A second report by September 15, 2007, that includes
9 recommendations, including implementing legislation as necessary, for
10 at least two but no more than four options for allocating school
11 employee compensation. One of the options must be outcome-based. The
12 report must also include a projection of the expected effect of the
13 investment made under the new funding structure. The second report
14 shall also include a finalized timeline and plan for addressing the
15 remaining components of a new funding system; and

16 (c) A final report with recommendations for at least two but no
17 more than four options for revising the remaining K-12 funding
18 structure, including implementing legislation as necessary, and a
19 timeline for phasing in full adoption of the new funding structure.
20 The final report shall be submitted to the joint task force by January
21 1, 2008. One of the options must be outcome-based. The final report
22 must also include a projection of the expected effect of the investment
23 made under the new funding structure.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The funding structure alternatives
25 developed by the joint task force under section 2 of this act shall
26 take into consideration the legislative priorities in this section, to
27 the maximum extent possible and as appropriate to each formula.

28 (2) The funding structure should reflect the most effective
29 instructional strategies and service delivery models and be based on
30 research-proven education programs and activities with demonstrated
31 cost benefits. In reviewing the possible strategies and models to
32 include in the funding structure the task force shall, at a minimum,
33 consider the following issues:

34 (a) Professional development for all staff;

35 (b) Whether the compensation system for instructional staff shall
36 include pay for performance, knowledge, and skills elements; elements

1 to recognize assignments that are difficult; recognition for the
2 professional teaching level certificate in the salary allocation model;
3 and a plan to implement the pay structure;

4 (c) Voluntary all-day kindergarten;

5 (d) Optimum class size, including different class sizes based on
6 grade level and ways to reduce class size;

7 (e) Focused instructional support for students and schools;

8 (f) Extended school day and school year options; and

9 (g) Health and safety requirements.

10 (3) The recommendations should provide maximum transparency of the
11 state's educational funding system in order to better help parents,
12 citizens, and school personnel in Washington understand how their
13 school system is funded.

14 (4) The funding structure should be linked to accountability for
15 student outcomes and performance.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
17 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
18 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
19 immediately.

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