
HOUSE BILL 2616

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2010 Regular Session

By Representatives Hunt, White, Lias, Carlyle, Sells, Morris, Darneille, and Santos

Prefiled 01/08/10. Read first time 01/11/10. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to statewide school district reorganization; adding
2 new sections to chapter 28A.315 RCW; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.315
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The commission on statewide school district reorganization is
7 established to develop and recommend a comprehensive plan for the
8 reorganization of Washington school districts for adoption by the
9 legislature as provided in section 2 of this act.

10 (2) The commission shall be composed of the following members:

11 (a) A representative of the state board of education selected by
12 the members of the board;

13 (b) Two representatives of school administrators selected by the
14 Washington association of school administrators, with one
15 representative each from eastern and western Washington;

16 (c) Two representatives of school board directors selected by the
17 Washington state school directors' association, with one representative
18 each from eastern and western Washington;

1 (d) One representative of certificated instructional school
2 employees selected by the Washington education association;

3 (e) An individual with experience as a demographer or as a
4 participant on the redistricting commission under chapter 44.05 RCW
5 selected by the governor; and

6 (f) Four individuals selected jointly by the speaker of the house
7 of representatives and the president of the senate, with two
8 individuals each from eastern and western Washington.

9 (3) Staff support for the commission shall be provided by the
10 office of the superintendent of public instruction. The superintendent
11 of public instruction shall convene the initial meeting of the
12 commission, at which time the members of the commission shall elect a
13 chair from among the members.

14 (4) Members of the commission are entitled to receive compensation
15 under RCW 43.03.240 and reimbursement for travel expenses in accordance
16 with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

17 (5) Any vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the
18 selection originally provided.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.315
20 RCW to read as follows:

21 (1) The commission on statewide school district reorganization
22 established under section 1 of this act shall develop objective
23 criteria, ranked in priority order, for the reorganization of
24 Washington school districts. The commission may consider but shall not
25 be limited to the criteria in RCW 28A.315.015 and 28A.315.205. The
26 commission shall adopt the criteria as administrative rules under the
27 provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW. The commission shall hold at least
28 one public hearing on the proposed criteria in each educational service
29 district before final adoption. The commission shall cause notice to
30 be given at least ten days before the scheduled date of the hearing in
31 one or more newspapers of general circulation within the educational
32 service district.

33 (2)(a) Based on the adopted objective criteria, the commission
34 shall develop a comprehensive plan for the reorganization of Washington
35 school districts. The plan shall result in no more than one hundred
36 fifty school districts in the state and their boundaries. The plan

1 shall also result in a reorganization of the number and boundaries of
2 educational service districts.

3 (b) The commission shall hold at least one public hearing in each
4 educational service district during the development of the proposed
5 plan. The commission shall cause notice to be given at least ten days
6 before the scheduled date of the hearing in one or more newspapers of
7 general circulation within the educational service district.

8 (c) After considering the information from the public hearings, the
9 results of the review under section 3 of this act, and any other
10 information or considerations, the commission shall submit the final
11 comprehensive school district reorganization plan to the superintendent
12 of public instruction, the governor, and the legislature by December 1,
13 2012, as provided in subsection (3) of this section.

14 (3) The comprehensive school district reorganization plan shall
15 consist of two parts, each of which shall be submitted separately in
16 the form of proposed legislation:

17 (a) Part A of the plan shall be a list of the recommended school
18 districts and educational service districts and their respective
19 boundaries. Except for amendments to correct technical errors or
20 omissions, the legislation implementing part A of the plan as submitted
21 by the commission may be amended only if approved by a two-thirds vote
22 of each house of the legislature; and

23 (b) Part B of the plan shall be recommended procedures and
24 timelines for implementation of the reorganization plan, including but
25 not limited to:

26 (i) A phased-in implementation schedule;

27 (ii) Procedures and timelines for determination, adjustment, and
28 transfer of assets and liabilities among school districts, including
29 bonded indebtedness;

30 (iii) Procedures and timelines for determination and election of
31 school district and educational service district boards of directors,
32 which shall include a transition period for any consolidated school
33 districts of up to two years, during which time all previous school
34 district boards of directors of the consolidated districts shall
35 continue to have governing responsibilities until a single board is
36 elected; and

37 (iv) Amendments to or temporary suspension of the provisions of
38 this chapter, chapter 28A.310 RCW, and other laws that are necessary to

1 implement the reorganization plan and also provide an ongoing process
2 for management of school district organization and boundary issues
3 after the plan has been implemented.

4 (4) Nothing in this section requires consolidation or closure of
5 high schools or other schools. Decisions regarding the disposition of
6 schools rest with school district boards of directors.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.315
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 The joint legislative audit and review committee shall conduct an
10 independent review of the comprehensive plan developed under section 2
11 of this act to assure that the proposed plan is based on and follows to
12 the maximum extent possible the objective criteria adopted by the
13 commission. The committee shall submit a report of its findings, along
14 with recommendations for any changes to the plan that would improve its
15 alignment with the criteria, to the commission on statewide school
16 district reorganization by September 1, 2012.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act expire June
18 30, 2014.

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