
Ways & Means Committee

HB 2817

Brief Description: Repealing the requirement to provide funding for a student achievement program.

Sponsors: Representatives Eddy and Finn.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Repeals the statutory requirement to provide funding in specified annual amounts for the Student Achievement Program, originally enacted as Initiative 728 in 2000.
- Removes statutory references to the Student Achievement Program and provides that any funding previously dedicated to the Student Achievement Program (from excess lottery funds and the Education Legacy Trust Account) goes toward support of the common schools.

Hearing Date: 3/7/12

Staff: Jessica Harrell (786-7349).

Background:

In November 2000, Initiative 728 (I-728), the K-12 2000 Student Achievement Act, was approved by Washington State voters. Under I-728, a portion of certain state revenues were dedicated to the Student Achievement Fund. School districts were given the discretion to use the I-728 related funding for any of six activities for improving student achievement. These activities included:

- reductions in K-4 class size;
- selected class size reductions in grades 5-12;
- extended learning opportunities for students who need or want additional time in school;
- investments in educators and their professional development;
- early assistance for children who need pre-kindergarten support in order to be successful in school; and

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- providing improvement or additions to facilities to support class size reductions and extended learning opportunities.

Upon initial approval, \$140 per pupil of the state property tax was directed to be placed in the Student Achievement Fund for calendar years 2001 through 2003. As directed in the I-728, the dedicated funding to the Student Achievement Fund would increase in 2004 to \$450 per pupil and be adjusted for inflation thereafter. However, the 2003 Legislature revised the per pupil amounts of the state property tax to be placed in the Student Achievement Fund to \$140 in the 2003-04 school year, \$254 in 2004-05, \$300 in 2005-06, \$375 in 2006-07, and \$450 in 2007-08. Each year after 2007-08, the per pupil figure was to be adjusted annually for inflation.

In 2008 the Legislature made additional adjustments to the Student Achievement Fund. In 2008, the amount dedicated to the Student Achievement Fund was \$458.10. For the 2009-10 school year, the per pupil appropriations began to be specified in the omnibus appropriations act and the figure was reduced to \$131.16. Concurrently, the K-12 2000 Student Achievement Act Account was consolidated into the State General Fund under Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5073, and the Student Achievement Act and Student Achievement Fund became the Student Achievement Program. Funding for the program was suspended in the 2010-11 school year and continues to be suspended through 2012-13.

Summary of Bill:

The statutory requirement to provide funding in specified annual amounts for the Student Achievement Program is repealed. In addition, all statutory references to the Student Achievement Program are also removed. Funding that was previously dedicated to the Student Achievement Fund is directed to the support of common schools.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on March 6, 2012.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.