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SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1027

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Brumsickle, Carlson, Cooke, Ballasiotes, B. Thomas, Chandler, Lisk, Horn, Foreman, Dyer, Sehlin, Silver, Sherstad, Benton, Schoesler, Buck, Johnson, Thompson, Radcliff, Hickel, Backlund, Cairnes, Elliot, Pennington, Mastin, Carrell, Mitchell, K. Schmidt, Chappell, Smith, Honeyford, Blanton, D. Schmidt, Mulliken, McMorris, Clements, Fuhrman, Sheldon, Huff, Mielke, Talcott and McMahan)

Read first time 02/21/95.

1 AN ACT Relating to redirecting resources to the classroom; creating  
2 new sections; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that in order to  
5 improve student learning in Washington's public schools, school  
6 districts and the state need to take actions to ensure that the maximum  
7 amount of available funding and resources reach the classroom.

8 It is the intent of the legislature to redirect resources to  
9 classrooms through the reduction of state-level and school district  
10 central office administration by identifying and eliminating  
11 unnecessary state and school district administrative expenditures, and  
12 by reducing the need for these administrators through the reduction of  
13 state-mandated requirements and reporting demands.

14 It is the further intent of the legislature that the savings  
15 achieved through the reduction in administrative expenditures be used  
16 to increase the financial resources used for teachers, teacher  
17 assistants, and other classroom support staff, including salaries and  
18 benefits, and for textbooks, supplies, and technology used in the  
19 classroom. It is the intent of the legislature to redirect savings in

1 administrative costs to the classroom, not to reduce funding levels for  
2 the public schools.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The joint select committee on education  
4 restructuring established in RCW 28A.630.950 shall review the current  
5 constitutional and statutory roles and responsibilities of the office  
6 of the superintendent of public instruction, the state board of  
7 education, the work force training and education coordinating board,  
8 the commission on student learning, and educational service districts,  
9 and by December 15, 1995, develop a recommendation to the legislature  
10 for creating a revised state-level education governance system. The  
11 new state-level governance system shall: (a) Focus on the improvement  
12 of student learning; (b) result in a reduction of state-level  
13 administrative expenditures; (c) provide school district staff and  
14 parents technical assistance and leadership; (d) result in minimal  
15 regulatory oversight; and (e) have clear lines of authority and  
16 accountability.

17 (2) The select committee shall continue its review of laws that  
18 inhibit, or do not enhance, student learning, including those that  
19 place procedural, governance, and paperwork burdens on school districts  
20 and schools.

21 (a) Based on its review, the select committee shall identify state  
22 statutes that inhibit, or do not enhance student learning, and make  
23 recommendations to the legislature by December 15, 1995, regarding  
24 which laws should be amended or repealed.

25 (b) After the 1996 legislative session, the select committee, in  
26 cooperation with the state board of education, the superintendent of  
27 public instruction, and other interested parties, shall identify state  
28 rules that inhibit, or do not enhance, student learning. The select  
29 committee shall by December 15, 1996, make recommendations to the  
30 legislature, the state board of education, and the superintendent of  
31 public instruction regarding which rules should be amended or repealed.

32 (3) This section shall expire December 31, 1996.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) School district boards of directors are  
34 strongly encouraged to review school district expenditures, and to take  
35 actions that will increase the percentage of district funds that are  
36 used to support the classroom. In order to assist school districts in  
37 this effort, the school district financial review program is created.

1 The purpose of the program is to provide funding to school districts to  
2 conduct financial reviews and to develop strategies that will increase  
3 the amount of resources that are used in the classroom.

4 (2) The program shall be administered by the superintendent of  
5 public instruction, or a public, nonprofit, or private contractor as  
6 designated by the superintendent.

7 (3) The superintendent, or his or her designee, shall establish  
8 application and approval requirements for the program. A minimum fifty  
9 percent financial match shall be required of school districts.  
10 Districts with enrollments larger than five hundred full-time  
11 equivalent students that expended less than two-thirds of their total  
12 general fund expenditures on teaching and teaching support during the  
13 1993-94 fiscal year shall receive priority in the allocation of funds.

14 (4) School districts that receive grants shall submit a report to  
15 the superintendent, or his or her designee, by December 31, 1995, of  
16 actions that the district has taken, or plans to take, to increase  
17 classroom expenditures. The superintendent, or his or her designee,  
18 shall summarize the information submitted by the districts and present  
19 a summary to the fiscal and education policy committees of the  
20 legislature before January 15, 1996. If one or more of the fiscal or  
21 policy committees find that adequate progress is not being made in  
22 redirecting resources to the classroom, the committee or committees  
23 shall recommend to the legislature additional measures that should be  
24 taken.

25 (5) The process established in subsections (1) through (4) of this  
26 section shall be repeated during calendar year 1997, with the summary  
27 in subsection (4) of this section being submitted to the legislature  
28 before December 31, 1997.

29 (6) This section shall expire December 31, 1997.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If specific funding for the purposes of this  
31 act, referencing this act by bill number, is not provided by June 30,  
32 1995, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and void.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
34 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the

1 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take  
2 effect May 1, 1995.

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