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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2947**

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**State of Washington**

**54th Legislature**

**1996 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Beeksma, Quall, Hymes, Sehlin, Honeyford, L. Thomas and Thompson)

Read first time 02/05/96.

1 AN ACT Relating to reimbursement for school buses; amending RCW  
2 28A.160.195; and creating a new section.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.160.195 and 1995 1st sp.s. c 10 s 1 are each  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 (1) The superintendent of public instruction, in consultation with  
7 the regional transportation coordinators of the educational service  
8 districts, shall establish a minimum number of school bus categories  
9 considering the capacity, engine placement, and type of vehicles  
10 required by school districts in Washington. The superintendent, in  
11 consultation with the regional transportation coordinators of the  
12 educational service districts, shall establish competitive  
13 specifications for each category of school bus. The categories shall  
14 be developed to produce minimum long-range operating costs, including  
15 costs of equipment and all costs in operating the vehicles. The  
16 categories, for purposes of comparative studies, will be at a minimum  
17 the same as those in the beginning of the 1994-95 school year. The  
18 competitive specifications shall meet federal motor vehicle safety  
19 standards, minimum state specifications as established by rule by the

1 superintendent, and supported options as determined by the  
2 superintendent in consultation with the regional transportation  
3 coordinators of the educational service districts.

4 (2) After establishing school bus categories and competitive  
5 specifications, the superintendent of public instruction shall solicit  
6 competitive price quotes from school bus dealers to be in effect for  
7 one year and establish a list of the lowest competitive price quotes  
8 obtained under this subsection.

9 (3) The superintendent shall base the level of reimbursement to  
10 school districts and educational service districts for school buses on  
11 the lowest quote in each category. However, district reimbursements  
12 for any new categories established in 1996 shall be for: (a) Buses  
13 placed on the reimbursement schedule after January 1, 1996, and before  
14 December 31, 1996; and (b) districts documenting reasons for choosing  
15 a new category, rather than an existing 1995 category, to the  
16 satisfaction of a majority of transportation coordinators of the  
17 educational service districts and the superintendent of public  
18 instruction.

19 (4) Notwithstanding RCW 28A.335.190, school districts and  
20 educational service districts may purchase at the quoted price directly  
21 from the dealer who is providing the lowest competitive price quote on  
22 the list established under subsection (2) of this section. School  
23 districts and educational service districts may make their own  
24 selections for school buses, but shall be reimbursed at the rates  
25 determined under this section and RCW 28A.160.200. District-selected  
26 options shall not be reimbursed by the state.

27 (5) This section does not prohibit school districts or educational  
28 service districts from conducting their own competitive bid process.

29 (6) The superintendent of public instruction may adopt rules under  
30 chapter 34.05 RCW to implement this section.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** If specific funding for this act,  
32 referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by June  
33 30, 1996, in the supplemental omnibus appropriations act, this act  
34 shall be null and void.

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