
HOUSE BILL 2101

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Representatives Haigh, Stensen, Miloscia, Poulsen, Kagi, Morris, Dunshee, Murray, Romero, Kessler, Eickmeyer, O'Brien, Rockefeller, Linville, Lovick, Kenney, Wolfe, Schual-Berke, Tokuda, Ruderman, McIntire, Edwards, Keiser and Lantz

Read first time 02/15/1999. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of a commission on school funding
2 review; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1)(a) The legislature finds that the common
5 schools of Washington began to implement comprehensive performance-
6 based education reforms in 1993 as provided in House Bill No. 1209 and
7 subsequent legislation. The principal features of the present system
8 for funding the operation of the common schools were enacted in 1977.
9 The more fully schools and school districts implement performance-based
10 educational programs, the less well aligned Washington's school funding
11 and school program delivery systems become. The governor's council on
12 education reform and funding, created by executive order in 1991, did
13 not adopt recommendations on how to redesign the funding system to
14 align with the performance-based instructional program model.

15 (b) The legislature further finds that many schools and school
16 districts in Washington have developed creative approaches to helping
17 students achieve the essential academic learning requirements and the
18 goals of the basic education act as codified in RCW 28A.150.210. The
19 successes already achieved by schools and school districts on the

1 Washington assessment of student learning constitute evidence that the
2 experiences of schools and school districts in Washington may suggest
3 viable strategies for designing performance-based funding programs.

4 (c) The legislature recognizes that as state-wide accountability
5 systems are developed and implemented to hold students, schools, and
6 school districts accountable for improving student performance, it is
7 appropriate and necessary to concurrently conduct a fundamental
8 reexamination of the educational funding system and explore possible
9 education finance system reform.

10 (2) For the purposes of this section, "commission" means the
11 commission on school funding review.

12 (3) The commission on school funding review is created.

13 (4)(a) The commission shall consist of thirteen citizen members,
14 appointed by the governor, each of whom shall apply for membership and
15 demonstrate his or her concern and interest in education financing, one
16 member appointed by each co-speaker of the house of representatives,
17 and one member from each major political party appointed by the
18 president of the senate. In appointing members of the commission, the
19 governor shall consider the expertise in educational finance of
20 applicants, and attempt to include parents, business and community
21 leaders, and individuals with experience as principals,
22 superintendents, school business managers, school auditors, teachers,
23 and school directors, and with experience in postsecondary education.

24 (b) The governor shall appoint a representative of the office of
25 the governor or the office of financial management. The commission
26 membership shall include members with expertise in special education
27 and expertise in programs designed to meet the need of students with
28 limited English proficiency. The co-speakers of the house of
29 representatives shall each appoint one member of their respective
30 caucuses. The president of the senate shall appoint one member of the
31 senate from each major political party. The governor shall appoint the
32 chair of the commission.

33 (5)(a) The commission shall identify at least fifteen but not more
34 than twenty-five successful comprehensive school or school district
35 program models from within the school districts of Washington. In
36 identifying successful comprehensive program models, the commission
37 shall place special emphasis on results on the Washington assessment of
38 student learning.

1 (b) After reviewing the structure and operation of the successful
2 comprehensive school or school district program models, the commission
3 shall approve pilot performance-based funding programs that could be
4 used in these schools and school districts. The pilot performance-
5 based funding programs shall be designed to implement either school-
6 based or district-wide performance-based education funding systems.

7 (c) Pilot performance-based funding programs may include, but are
8 not limited to, weighted student formulas and systems allowing for more
9 flexible expenditure of funding formula allocations, and categorical
10 program appropriations from state and federal sources.

11 (d) In designing pilot performance-based funding programs, the
12 commission shall consider the actual cost of providing for both the
13 immediate and future needs of students to be served by the school or
14 school district.

15 (6) The commission shall report its findings and recommendations to
16 the governor and the legislature by January 1, 2001. In its final
17 report, the commission shall recommend steps for implementing state-
18 wide a system of performance-based common school financing.

19 (7) Schools and school districts choosing to participate with the
20 commission in developing pilot performance-based funding program
21 designs shall receive compensation for expenses incurred through such
22 participation. The amount of compensation shall be determined by the
23 commission, subject to available funding.

24 (8) The commission shall employ such staff as may be necessary to
25 fulfill its duties under this section. The commission is authorized to
26 enter into contracts for services which may be necessary to fulfill its
27 duties under this section. The commission shall create technical
28 advisory committees as needed in order to fulfill its duties under this
29 section.

30 (9) The commission shall expire on January 1, 2001.

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