

HOUSE BILL REPORT

EHB 3011

As Passed Legislature

Title: An act relating to local effort assistance.

Brief Description: Modifying and studying the local effort assistance program.

Sponsors: By Representatives Fromhold, McIntire and Sommers.

Brief History:

Appropriations:

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/13/02, 62-35.

Passed Senate: 3/13/02, 35-13.

Passed Legislature.

Brief Summary of Engrossed Bill

- Creates the Joint Task Force on Local Effort Assistance, which is charged with analyzing whether the purpose of the local effort assistance program is being met and making recommendations.
- Reduces calendar year 2003 local effort assistance allocations by 1 percent.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Majority/Minority Report: None.

Staff: Denise Graham (786-7137).

Background:

In 1987 the Legislature created the Local Effort Assistance Program, which provides state allocations to eligible school districts to match local maintenance and operation levy revenues. The purpose of local effort assistance, also known as levy equalization, is "to mitigate the effect that above average property tax rates might have on the ability of a school district to raise local revenues to supplement the state's basic program of education." (RCW 28A.500.010)

The levy equalization formula compares the tax rate a district needs in order to raise an

amount equal to 12 percent of its state and federal revenues with the statewide average tax rate needed to raise 12 percent of state and federal revenues to all districts. Districts with above average tax rates receive a state match on local levy dollars.

Summary of Engrossed Bill:

The Legislature finds that changes in state and federal funding have taken place since the creation of the Local Effort Assistance Program making it necessary to reexamine whether the purpose of the program is being fulfilled.

The Joint Task Force on Local Effort Assistance is created. Membership on the task force consists of the following 19 members: six members from the House of Representatives, three from each caucus; six members from the Senate, three from each caucus; the Superintendent of Public Instruction; a member chosen by the Washington State School Directors' Association; a member chosen by the Washington Association of School Administrators; a member chosen by the Rural Education Center; a fiscal officer of an educational service district; and two members of school districts with student enrollments greater than 20,000.

By December 1, 2002, the task force is to complete an analysis of the history of the Local Effort Assistance Program and its impacts and determine whether the purpose of the Local Effort Assistance Program is being met under the current allocation formula.

Calendar year 2003 local effort assistance allocations to school districts will be reduced by 1 percent.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not Requested.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.

Testimony For: None.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: None.