
HOUSE BILL 2733

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Representatives Haigh, Cox, Schual-Berke, Jarrett, Hunt, Santos, Rockefeller, Fromhold, Quall, Edwards, Ogden, Morris, Chase, Upthegrove and Linville

Read first time 01/25/2002. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to school funding review; and creating a new
2 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
6 performance-based education reforms in 1993 as provided in House Bill
7 No. 1209 and subsequent legislation. The principal features of the
8 present system for funding the operation of the common schools were
9 enacted in 1977. The more fully schools and school districts implement
10 performance-based educational programs, the less well-aligned
11 Washington's school funding and school program delivery systems become.
12 The governor's council on education reform and funding, created by
13 executive order in 1991, did not adopt recommendations to redesign the
14 education funding system to align it with the performance-based
15 instructional program model the commission recommended.

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

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

5 (c) The legislature further finds that the 2001 amendments to the
6 federal elementary and secondary education act of 1965 will result in
7 a fundamental change in programs for low-achieving and disadvantaged
8 students, new requirements for new teachers and paraprofessionals,
9 increasingly intensive accountability measures for low-performing
10 schools, and a shift in the way federal and state funds are used to
11 support student learning.

12 (d) The legislature recognizes that as statewide accountability
13 systems are developed and implemented to hold students, schools, and
14 school districts accountable for improving student performance, and as
15 the new federal requirements are implemented, it is appropriate and
16 necessary to concurrently conduct a fundamental reexamination of the
17 educational funding system and to explore optional ways to distribute
18 state funds to meet the educational needs of students.

19 (2) As used in this section, "task force" means the task force on
20 school funding review.

21 (3) The task force on school funding review is created.

22 (4)(a) The task force shall consist of nineteen members as follows:
23 Thirteen citizen members, appointed by the governor, each of whom shall
24 apply for membership and demonstrate his or her concern and interest in
25 education financing; one member from each major political party
26 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; one member
27 from each major political party appointed by the president of the
28 senate; the superintendent of public instruction or the
29 superintendent's designee; and a representative of the office of the
30 governor or the office of financial management. When appointing the
31 thirteen citizen members of the task force, the governor shall consider
32 the applicants' expertise in educational finance, and shall attempt to
33 include parents, business and community leaders, individuals with
34 experience as principals, superintendents, school business managers,
35 school auditors, teachers, and school directors, persons with
36 experience working in postsecondary education, and persons with
37 expertise in special education and in programs designed to meet the
38 need of students with limited English proficiency.

39 (b) The governor shall appoint the chair of the task force.

1 (5)(a) The task force, with the assistance of any advisory
2 committee it appoints, shall identify between fifteen and twenty-five
3 successful comprehensive school or school district program models from
4 within the school districts of Washington. In identifying successful
5 comprehensive program models, the task force shall place special
6 emphasis on results on the Washington assessment of student learning.
7 The task force may also consider successful models from other states.

8 (b) After reviewing the structure and operation of the successful
9 comprehensive school or school district program models, the task force
10 shall recommend to the governor and the legislative fiscal and
11 education committees a program to pilot test performance-based funding
12 models that could be used in schools and school districts. The pilot
13 performance-based funding models should be designed to implement either
14 school-based or district-wide performance-based education funding
15 systems.

16 (6) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to
17 the governor and the legislative fiscal and education committees by
18 January 1, 2004. In its final report, the task force shall recommend
19 steps for pilot testing and implementing statewide a system of
20 performance-based common school financing.

21 (7) The office of financial management shall provide staff support
22 to the task force. The office of financial management may enter into
23 contracts for any services necessary to fulfill the duties of the task
24 force under this section.

25 (8) The task force expires June 30, 2004.

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