

## **SB 5603 - DIGEST**

Finds that: (1) The early years mark the most extraordinary period of growth for young children. The state's role in providing access to early learning opportunities has never been consistently defined;

(2) More than a quarter of a century has passed since the current school finance system was first created, and the challenges facing our schools and students have grown and changed dramatically during that time. Policies have been established creating new expectations and goals for students under education reform;

(3) Demographic pressures and work force needs will continue to increase demand for access to postsecondary education and training. Public two-year and four-year institutions of higher education are also important avenues for programs such as adult basic education and English as a second language that are the foundation for employment and further education for an increasing number of people. Students have paid an increasing cost of their education with tuition growing faster than personal income or inflation; and

(4) Through a comprehensive study, the legislature will have solid information to determine how best to use its resources to create a strong education system that will provide an educated citizenry and a thriving economy in this state.