
SENATE BILL 5534

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Fortunato, Rossi, Zeiger, Braun, Bailey, Sheldon, Fain, Angel, Warnick, and Becker

Read first time 01/27/17. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing a housing allowance for certificated
2 and classified school staff in school districts with above average
3 residential housing costs; and adding a new section to chapter
4 28A.400 RCW.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.400
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) The legislature recognizes that homeowners and renters spend
9 a significant portion of their incomes on housing costs. The
10 legislature further recognizes that housing costs vary considerably
11 throughout the state. As a consequence, the legislature further
12 recognizes that the costs of delivering comparable education services
13 varies from place to place. Therefore, the legislature intends,
14 through the housing allowance in this section, to provide an
15 additional allocation to adjust for regional cost differences.

16 (2) Beginning with the 2018-19 school year, in addition to other
17 compensation provided to public school employees, state-funded
18 certificated administrative staff, and certificated instructional and
19 classified staff teaching full or part-time in eligible school
20 districts shall receive an annual housing allowance, as provided in
21 this section.

1 (3) The amount of the housing allowance for each full-time
2 employee employed by the school district is equal to ten thousand
3 dollars multiplied by the regional cost factor. The amount of the
4 allowance for part-time staff is adjusted proportionally. School
5 districts eligible for a housing allowance under this section must
6 increase the compensation of all staff by the amount of the
7 allowance.

8 (4)(a) After the 2018-19 school year, the housing allowance
9 authorized under this section must be annually adjusted for
10 inflation.

11 (b) For the purpose of this subsection, "inflation" means the
12 percentage change in the implicit price deflator for personal
13 consumption expenditures for the United States as published for the
14 most recent calendar year by the bureau of economic analysis of the
15 federal department of commerce.

16 (5) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
17 administer the housing allowance program and adopt rules for its
18 implementation.

19 (6) The department of revenue must provide the necessary property
20 tax information to the office of the superintendent of public
21 instruction by March 1st of each year. The department shall use the
22 most recent property tax data provided by the county assessors.
23 County assessors must provide updated parcel information to the
24 department in a form and manner required by the department; however,
25 the assessors must provide updated data at least every two years.

26 (7) The housing allowance authorized under this section is
27 considered part of the definition or funding of the instructional
28 program of basic education under Article IX of the state
29 Constitution; and it is considered earnable compensation as defined
30 in RCW 41.32.010 and compensation earnable as defined in RCW
31 41.40.010 and 41.35.010.

32 (8) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
33 section.

34 (a) "Eligible school district" means a school district where the
35 average equalized assessed value per residential parcel within the
36 school district is above the statewide average equalized assessed
37 value per residential parcel.

38 (b) "Excess residential value" means the amount by which the
39 average equalized assessed value per residential parcel in the school

1 district exceeds the statewide average equalized assessed per
2 residential parcel.

3 (c) "Highest district excess residential value" means the school
4 district with the largest excess residential value.

5 (d) "Regional cost factor" means the quotient of the school
6 district excess residential value and the highest district excess
7 residential value.

8 (e) "Residential parcel" means a parcel with a land use code of
9 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, or 19 as provided in the parcel extract compiled
10 by the department of revenue.

11 (f) "School district excess residential value" means the excess
12 residential value of an eligible school district.

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