
HOUSE BILL 1715

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Representatives Thompson, Pelesky, Stevens, Koster, Campbell and Padden

Read first time 02/06/95. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing educational grants; adding a new
2 section to chapter 28A.150 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there are a
5 growing number of viable alternatives to public education, including
6 private schools and home schooling. In order to be more fair to those
7 taking on the public burden of educating their own children, the
8 legislature intends to compensate parents who pay private school
9 tuition and who home school their children. This will also improve the
10 quality of elementary and secondary education in the state by requiring
11 public schools to compete for students, and by providing parents
12 enhanced opportunity for the exercise of parental choice in the
13 education of their school-age children.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.150
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall establish a
17 program in which the parent or parents, including guardians, of
18 school-age children may receive from the superintendent, on request, a

1 grant for educational services that their children have received at
2 private schools or through home-based instruction. The grants shall be
3 awarded year-to-year for children between the ages of five and
4 nineteen.

5 (2) The value of the educational grant shall be based on fifty
6 percent of the estimated average total per pupil K-12 state allocation,
7 excluding allocations for state assistance for school facility
8 construction, for the school year for which the grant is issued. The
9 superintendent may prorate the grant amount if the child was home
10 schooled or attended private school less than a full school year.

11 (3) A parent of a child eligible for an educational grant under
12 this section may apply for a grant in accordance with rules established
13 by the superintendent of public instruction. Parents of students
14 attending private schools shall include evidence of the student's
15 attendance in the private school. Home school students must meet the
16 requirements of RCW 28A.200.010 to be eligible to receive a grant. The
17 application also shall include documentation that the student is making
18 satisfactory academic progress as measured by a standardized test.

19 (4) The educational grant program established in this section shall
20 be implemented beginning in the 1996-97 school year.

21 (5) Nothing in this section may be construed as increasing state
22 controls of any state agency or employee over any private school,
23 parent, guardian, or child.

24 (6) The superintendent may develop and administer rules to
25 implement this section.

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