
Education Committee

2ESSB 5906

Brief Description: Creating the technology in education task force.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Senators Rasmussen, Finkbeiner, McAuliffe, Eide, Regala, Kastama, Hewitt, Hochstatter and Kohl-Welles).

Hearing Date: 2/20/02

Staff: Susan Morrissey (786-7111).

Background:

By a 1993 law, the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) is required to develop and implement a state K-12 education technology plan. The plan, which must be updated on a biennial basis, has been developed to coordinate and expand the use of education technology in the state's public schools. The plan must address the following elements:

- technical assistance to schools and districts for the planning, implementation, and training of staff in the use of technology in curricular and administrative functions;
- continued development of a network to connect districts, institutions of higher education, and other sources of on-line information; and
- methods to equitably increase the use of education technology by students and school personnel.

The SPI was required to appoint an education technology advisory committee to assist in the development and implementation of the plan. The task force includes or included representation from a variety of state agencies, higher education, and education constituencies.

In addition to the technology responsibilities assigned to the SPI, educational service districts (ESD's) are required to establish regional educational technology support centers to provide training, analysis, planning, access to distance learning, and other programmatic and technical support to schools in the district. The ESD's must establish representative advisory councils to advise the districts on expenditures for technology support centers.

Summary of Bill:

The Technology in Education Task Force is created. The task force will conduct a study and develop recommendations on the use of and funding for technology in schools. The study will focus on technology use and needs in grades three through 12.

The study will include the identification of the technology currently available in schools, the methods that districts now use to fund technology, plans to update technology, training in its use, and its integration into the curriculum. The study will also include the different uses of technology in elementary, middle, and high school, and the use of and funding for technology in public schools in other states. By November 1, 2002, the task force must submit the study, with recommendations, to the legislative education and fiscal committees.

The task force will consist of 20 voting members or their designees. Members will include the Governor, four legislators, one from each caucus, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the chair of the Information Services Board, and representatives of school districts, ESD's, the Higher Education Coordinating Board, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, the computer or digital technology industry, and the public. It will be co-chaired by the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Governor, or their designees.

This act takes effect immediately and expires December 1, 2002.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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