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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5065**

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**State of Washington**

**64th Legislature**

**2015 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Frockt, Liiias, McCoy, Jayapal, Keiser, Litzow, Pedersen, Darneille, McAuliffe, Hasegawa, Ranker, Billig, Kohl-Welles, and Fain)

READ FIRST TIME 02/13/15.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving educational opportunities for  
2 homeless students through increased state-funded in-school supports,  
3 housing stability, and reporting; amending RCW 28A.300.540; adding a  
4 new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; adding a new section to chapter  
5 43.185C RCW; creating new sections; and making appropriations.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) It is the policy of the state of  
8 Washington that all students have the opportunity to obtain a basic  
9 education. The legislature finds that the number of homeless students  
10 identified in the K-12 public school system has been increasing since  
11 at least the 2005-06 school year. Homeless students face significant  
12 barriers, such as housing instability and the stigma that prevents  
13 students from identifying themselves as homeless. These barriers make  
14 it difficult for homeless students to take full advantage of their  
15 educational opportunities provided by the state of Washington.

16 (2) The legislature acknowledges that the federal McKinney-Vento  
17 education for homeless children and youth program provides training,  
18 technical assistance, and monitoring, as well as federal funding to  
19 support school district programs that serve homeless students. The  
20 legislature recognizes that Washington receives approximately nine

1 hundred fifty thousand dollars in funding each year from the United  
2 States department of education in support of this program.

3 (3) The legislature intends to improve educational opportunities  
4 for homeless children by creating a state-funded grant program to  
5 complement the federal program and funding to continue to reduce  
6 barriers to enrollment, retention, and graduation of homeless  
7 students. It is also the intent of the legislature to encourage  
8 collaboration between school districts and community housing agencies  
9 to help homeless families with children enrolled in the public school  
10 system access stable housing.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300  
12 RCW to read as follows:

13 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
14 create a competitive grant process to evaluate and award state-funded  
15 three-year grants to school districts to increase identification of  
16 homeless students and the capacity of the districts to provide  
17 support, which may include education liaisons, for homeless  
18 students. The process must complement any similar federal grant  
19 program or programs in order to minimize agency overhead and  
20 administrative costs for the superintendent of public instruction and  
21 school districts. School districts may access both federal and state  
22 funding to identify and support homeless students.

23 (2) Award criteria for the state grants shall be based on the  
24 demonstrated need of the school district and may consider the number  
25 or overall percentage, or both, of homeless children and youths  
26 enrolled in preschool, elementary, and secondary schools in the  
27 school district, and the ability of the local school district to meet  
28 these needs. Award criteria these also be based on the quality of the  
29 applications submitted.

30 (3) Homeless students are defined as students without a fixed,  
31 regular, and adequate nighttime residence as set forth in the federal  
32 McKinney-Vento homeless education assistance act (P.L. 100-77; 101  
33 Stat. 482).

34 (4) School districts may not use funds allocated under this  
35 section to supplant existing federal, state, or local resources for  
36 homeless student supports, which may include education liaisons.

37 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.185C  
38 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) The department, in consultation with the office of the  
2 superintendent of public instruction, shall administer a grant  
3 program that links homeless students and their families with stable  
4 housing located in the homeless student's school district. The goal  
5 of the program is to provide educational stability for homeless  
6 students by promoting housing stability.

7 (2) The department, working with the office of the superintendent  
8 of public instruction, shall develop a competitive grant process to  
9 make grant awards of up to five hundred thousand dollars to school  
10 districts partnered with eligible organizations on implementation of  
11 the proposal. For the purposes of this subsection, "eligible  
12 organization" means any local government, local housing authority,  
13 regional support network established under chapter 71.24 RCW,  
14 nonprofit community or neighborhood-based organization, federally  
15 recognized Indian tribe in the state of Washington, or regional or  
16 statewide nonprofit housing assistance organization. Applications for  
17 the grant program must include contractual agreements between the  
18 housing providers and school districts defining the responsibilities  
19 and commitments of each party to identify, house, and support  
20 homeless students.

21 (3) The grant program is limited to fifteen schools per school  
22 year. In determining which school districts will receive grants,  
23 preference must be given to districts with a demonstrated commitment  
24 of partnership and history with eligible organizations.

25 (4) Activities eligible for assistance under this grant program  
26 include but are not limited to:

27 (a) Rental assistance, which includes utilities, security and  
28 utility deposits, first and last month's rent, rental application  
29 fees, moving expenses, and other eligible expenses to be determined  
30 by the department;

31 (b) Transportation assistance, including gasoline assistance for  
32 families with vehicles and bus passes;

33 (c) Emergency shelter; and

34 (d) Housing stability case management.

35 (5) All beneficiaries of funds from the grant program must be  
36 from very low-income households. For the purposes of this subsection,  
37 "very low-income household" means a family or unrelated persons  
38 living together whose adjusted income is less than fifty percent of  
39 the median family income, adjusted for household size, for the county  
40 where the grant recipient is located.

1 (6)(a) Grantee school districts must compile information and  
2 report to the legislature the findings of the grantee, the housing  
3 stability of the homeless families, the academic performance of the  
4 grantee population, and any related policy recommendations.

5 (b) Data on all program participants must be entered into and  
6 tracked through the Washington homeless client management information  
7 system as described in RCW 43.185C.180.

8 (7) In order to ensure that school districts are meeting the  
9 requirements of an approved program for homeless students, the office  
10 of the superintendent of public instruction shall monitor the  
11 programs at least once every two years. Monitoring shall begin during  
12 the 2015-16 school year.

13 (8) Any program review and monitoring under this section may be  
14 conducted concurrently with other program reviews and monitoring  
15 conducted by the department. In its review, the office of the  
16 superintendent of public instruction shall monitor program components  
17 that include but need not be limited to the process used by the  
18 district to identify and reach out to homeless students, assessment  
19 data and other indicators to determine how well the district is  
20 meeting the academic needs of homeless students, district  
21 expenditures used to expand opportunities for these students, and the  
22 academic progress of students under the program.

23 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.300.540 and 2014 c 212 s 2 are each amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 (1) For the purposes of this section, "unaccompanied homeless  
26 student" means a student who is not in the physical custody of a  
27 parent or guardian and is homeless as defined in section 2(3) of this  
28 act.

29 (2) By December 31, 2010, the office of the superintendent of  
30 public instruction shall establish a uniform process designed to  
31 track the additional expenditures for transporting homeless students,  
32 including expenditures required under the McKinney Vento act,  
33 reauthorized as Title X, Part C, of the no child left behind act,  
34 P.L. 107-110, in January 2002. Once established, the superintendent  
35 shall adopt the necessary administrative rules to direct each school  
36 district to adopt and use the uniform process and track these  
37 expenditures. The superintendent shall post on the superintendent's  
38 web site total expenditures related to the transportation of homeless  
39 students.

1           ~~((+2))~~ (3)(a) By January 10, 2015, and every odd-numbered year  
2 thereafter, the office of the superintendent of public instruction  
3 shall report to the governor and the legislature the following data  
4 for homeless students:

5           (i) The number of identified homeless students enrolled in public  
6 schools;

7           (ii) The number of identified unaccompanied homeless students  
8 enrolled in public schools;

9           (iii) The number of students participating in the learning  
10 assistance program under chapter 28A.165 RCW, the highly capable  
11 program under chapter 28A.185 RCW, and the running start program  
12 under chapter 28A.600 RCW; and

13           ~~((+iii))~~ (iv) The academic performance and educational outcomes  
14 of homeless students and unaccompanied homeless students, including  
15 but not limited to the following performance and educational  
16 outcomes:

17           (A) Student scores on the statewide administered academic  
18 assessments;

19           (B) English language proficiency;

20           (C) Dropout rates;

21           (D) Four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate;

22           (E) Five-year adjusted cohort graduation rate;

23           (F) Absenteeism rates;

24           (G) Truancy rates, if available; and

25           (H) Suspension and expulsion data.

26           (b) The data reported under this subsection ~~((+2))~~ (3) must  
27 include state and district-level information and must be  
28 disaggregated by at least the following subgroups of students: White,  
29 Black, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, Pacific  
30 Islander/Hawaiian Native, low income, transitional bilingual,  
31 migrant, special education, and gender.

32           ~~((+3))~~ (4) By July 1, 2014, the office of the superintendent of  
33 public instruction in collaboration with experts from community  
34 organizations on homelessness and homeless education policy, shall  
35 develop or acquire a short video that provides information on how to  
36 identify signs that indicate a student may be homeless, how to  
37 provide services and support to homeless students, and why this  
38 identification and support is critical to student success. The video  
39 must be posted on the superintendent of public instruction's web  
40 site.

1       (~~(4)~~) (5) By July 1, 2014, the office of the superintendent of  
2 public instruction shall adopt and distribute to each school  
3 district, best practices for choosing and training school district-  
4 designated homeless student liaisons.

5       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 5.** (1) The sum of one million dollars, or as  
6 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year  
7 ending June 30, 2016, from the general fund to the office of the  
8 superintendent of public instruction for the purposes of section 2 of  
9 this act.

10       (2) The sum of one million dollars, or as much thereof as may be  
11 necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017,  
12 from the general fund to the office of the superintendent of public  
13 instruction for the purposes of section 2 of this act.

14       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 6.** If specific funding for the purposes of  
15 section 3 of this act, referencing section 3 of this act by bill or  
16 chapter number and section number, is not provided by June 30, 2015,  
17 in the omnibus appropriations act, section 3 of this act is null and  
18 void.

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