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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2381**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives McEntire, Shavers, and Chapman; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction)

READ FIRST TIME 01/31/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing eligibility for economy and  
2 efficiency flexible school calendar waivers; and amending RCW  
3 28A.150.222.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.150.222 and 2019 c 274 s 1 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) In addition to waivers authorized under RCW 28A.300.750, the  
8 superintendent of public instruction, in accordance with the criteria  
9 in subsection (2) of this section and criteria adopted by the state  
10 board of education under subsection (3) of this section, may grant  
11 waivers of the requirement for a (~~one hundred eighty-day~~) 180-day  
12 school year under RCW 28A.150.220 to school districts that propose to  
13 operate one or more schools on a flexible calendar for purposes of  
14 economy and efficiency as provided in this section. The requirement  
15 under RCW 28A.150.220 that school districts offer minimum  
16 instructional hours may not be waived.

17 (2) A school district seeking a waiver under this section must  
18 submit an application to the superintendent of public instruction  
19 that includes:

1 (a) A proposed calendar for the school day and school year that  
2 demonstrates how the instructional hour requirement will be  
3 maintained;

4 (b) An explanation and estimate of the economies and efficiencies  
5 to be gained from compressing the instructional hours into fewer than  
6 (~~one hundred eighty~~) 180 days;

7 (c) An explanation of how monetary savings from the proposal will  
8 be redirected to support student learning;

9 (d) A summary of comments received at one or more public hearings  
10 on the proposal and how concerns will be addressed;

11 (e) An explanation of the impact on students who rely upon free  
12 and reduced-price school child nutrition services and the impact on  
13 the ability of the child nutrition program to operate an economically  
14 independent program;

15 (f) An explanation of the impact on employees in education  
16 support positions, including expected position and work hour  
17 reductions, reductions in force, and the loss of work benefits or  
18 eligibility for work benefits, and the ability to recruit and retain  
19 employees in education support positions;

20 (g) An explanation of the impact on students whose parents work  
21 during the missed school day; and

22 (h) Other information that the superintendent of public  
23 instruction may request to assure that the proposed flexible calendar  
24 will not adversely affect student learning.

25 (3) The state board of education shall adopt rules establishing  
26 the criteria to evaluate waiver requests under this section. A waiver  
27 may be effective for up to three years and may be renewed for  
28 subsequent periods of three or fewer years. After each school year in  
29 which a waiver has been granted under this section, the  
30 superintendent of public instruction must analyze empirical evidence  
31 to determine whether the reduction is affecting student learning. If  
32 the superintendent of public instruction determines that student  
33 learning is adversely affected, the school district must discontinue  
34 the flexible calendar as soon as possible but not later than the  
35 beginning of the next school year after the superintendent of public  
36 instruction's determination.

37 (4) The superintendent of public instruction may grant waivers  
38 authorized under this section to (~~ten or fewer~~) school districts  
39 with student populations of less than (~~five hundred~~) 1,000  
40 students. (~~Of the ten waivers that may be granted, two must be~~

1 ~~reserved for districts with student populations of less than one~~  
2 ~~hundred fifty students.)~~)

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