

**2SHB 2955** - H AMD

By Representative

1           Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3           "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that more than a  
4 quarter of a century has passed since the current school finance  
5 system was first created, and that the challenges facing our  
6 schools and students have grown and changed dramatically during  
7 that time. The legislature intends to examine the school finance  
8 system to determine whether it is appropriately linked to the  
9 demands of education reform and to the goal of providing all  
10 children in the state the opportunity to meet standards.

11           NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The joint task force on K-12 finance  
12 is created to study the common school finance system and to develop  
13 alternative funding models for that finance system. The  
14 alternatives shall include one or more models that can be fully  
15 funded within the existing total federal, state, and local capital  
16 and operating expenditures for public schools and may include  
17 alternatives that require new or additional funding.

18           (2) The task force shall, at a minimum:

19           (a) Consider the constitutional and legal requirements  
20 underlying the current finance system;

21           (b) Compare Washington's common school funding system with  
22 those in other states that are beginning to link finance systems  
23 with education reform and expected levels of student achievement;

24           (c) Design alternative common school finance systems for  
25 Washington that reflect principles that include but need not be  
26 limited to the following:

27           (i) The finance system should be aligned with the policy  
28 expectations and goals established under education reform;

29           (ii) Funds should be distributed equitably so that all children  
30 have the opportunity to meet the state's academic standards and

1 become prepared for postsecondary education, including career and  
2 technical education;

3 (iii) Staffing should be recognized as a key component of  
4 school district costs, including the number of and compensation for  
5 certificated instructional staff, certificated administrative  
6 staff, and classified staff;

7 (iv) Stable and predictable basic education funding should be  
8 provided by the state to school districts;

9 (v) Local flexibility and choice in program delivery at the  
10 district and school levels should be enhanced; and

11 (vi) Accountability for taxpayers that focuses on levels of  
12 student achievement should be provided;

13 (d) Design one or more alternative compensation models that  
14 attract and retain high performing teachers in all Washington  
15 schools and in all academic subject areas and, in addition, may do  
16 one or more of the following:

17 (i) Reward teachers for improving their skills and knowledge in  
18 a manner that translates into improved student learning; and

19 (ii) Recognize regional cost-of-living differences as well as  
20 recruitment challenges facing rural schools and schools with large  
21 numbers of educationally disadvantaged students; and

22 (e) Review the role of noncertificated staff and the  
23 appropriate types of compensation for these staff.

24 (3) The task force shall consist of the following members:

25 (a) Four members from the house of representatives, two from  
26 each major caucus, appointed by the speaker of the house of  
27 representatives;

28 (b) Four members from the senate, two from each major caucus  
29 appointed by the president of the senate;

30 (c) The superintendent of public instruction or the  
31 superintendent's designee; and

32 (d) The governor or the governor's designee.

33 (4) The task force shall create an advisory committee that  
34 includes but need not be limited to: Educators, principals,  
35 administrators, school directors, parents, educational service  
36 districts, organizations representing employers and employees, the  
37 Gates foundation, and the University of Washington center for  
38 reinventing education.

39 (5) The chair shall be appointed by the governor.

1 (6) The task force shall select the persons or entities to  
2 conduct various components of the study and shall approve the  
3 expenditure of funds.

4 (7) Appointments to the task force shall be completed within  
5 thirty days of the effective date of this section.

6 (8) The task force shall receive staff and logistical support  
7 from the office of financial management, the office of the  
8 superintendent of public instruction, the office of program  
9 research of the house of representatives, and senate committee  
10 services.

11 (9) Legislative members of the task force shall be reimbursed  
12 for travel expenses as provided in RCW 44.04.120. Other members of  
13 the task force and the members of the advisory committee may be  
14 reimbursed for travel expenses by the agencies or organizations  
15 that appointed or nominated them.

16 (10) The task force shall report findings and recommendations  
17 to the legislature by October 1, 2006.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires June 30, 2007."

**EFFECT:** The Joint Task Force on K-12 Finance will include the Governor and Superintendent of Public Instruction. The governor will appoint the chair. The task force will have an advisory committee of educational professionals and others. The task force may, but is not required, to study state funding and district expenditures for specified components of the current funding formula. The components include school levies, levy rollbacks, and levy equalization; the Transitional Bilingual Instruction program; special education including the Safety Net program; food service funding; and school facility construction and modernization. The task force is not required to hold a minimum of nine public hearings, one in each educational service district. The task force will examine the current definition of basic education but is not specifically required to determine its alignment to education reform. The issue of compensation for continuing education and professional development is not specifically mentioned. The way that the findings and recommendations will be reached is not specifically described as being by majority vote.