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HOUSE BILL 1811

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Hunter, Talcott, Haigh, Jarrett, Cox, Tom, Rockefeller, Schual-Berke, Miloscia, Quall, McDermott, Grant, Bailey, Nixon, Santos, Hunt and Clibborn

Read first time 02/11/2003. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to studying the education finance system; creating  
2 a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The office of financial management shall  
5 conduct a comprehensive study of the Washington education finance  
6 system, including examination of alternative teacher compensation  
7 models.

8 (2) The study shall, at a minimum:

9 (a) Compare Washington's common school funding system with those in  
10 other states that are beginning to link finance systems with education  
11 reform and expected student learning outcomes;

12 (b) Review the role of state and local funding and levy  
13 equalization policies in the Washington common school finance system,  
14 building upon the 2002 joint task force on local effort assistance  
15 report;

16 (c) Design alternative common school finance systems for  
17 Washington, with consideration of the following principles:

18 (i) Aligning the finance system with the policy expectations and

1 goals established under education reform to provide all students the  
2 opportunity to achieve state standards;

3 (ii) Recognizing staffing as a key component of school district  
4 costs, including the number of and compensation for certificated  
5 instructional staff, certificated administrative staff, and classified  
6 staff;

7 (iii) Providing stable and predictable funding for school  
8 districts;

9 (iv) Supporting local flexibility in program delivery; and  
10 (v) Providing accountability for taxpayers focused on student  
11 learning outcomes;

12 (d) Design one or more alternative compensation models that:  
13 (i) Attract and retain high performing teachers in all Washington  
14 schools;

15 (ii) Reward teachers for improving their skills and knowledge in a  
16 manner that translates into improved student learning;

17 (iii) Recognize participation in teacher mentoring programs; and  
18 (iv) Recognize different career stages for teachers and the  
19 leadership roles they perform in schools; and

20 (e) Design a prekindergarten finance system to maximize school  
21 readiness and provide smooth transitions for children into  
22 kindergarten.

23 (3)(a) A twenty-three member steering committee shall advise the  
24 office of financial management in the system review and the development  
25 of alternatives and recommendations.

26 (b) The governor shall appoint the following members of the  
27 steering committee: A school board director, two school  
28 administrators, a school principal, two certificated instructional  
29 staff, a classified school employee, an early childhood educator, a  
30 parent, a business executive, and three public members. When making  
31 appointments, the governor shall consider regional representation on  
32 the committee, including the need for urban, rural, and suburban  
33 district perspectives.

34 (c) The steering committee shall include the superintendent of  
35 public instruction, or the superintendent's designee.

36 (d) The steering committee shall also include eight legislators:  
37 The speaker of the house of representatives, the senate majority

1 leader, the house of representatives and senate minority leaders, and  
2 one additional member appointed by each major caucus of the house of  
3 representatives and the senate.

4 (e) The governor, or the governor's appointee, shall chair the  
5 committee.

6 (f) Appointments to the steering committee shall be completed  
7 within thirty days of the effective date of this section.

8 (g) The committee may form an executive committee, create  
9 subcommittees, designate alternative representatives, and define other  
10 procedures, as needed, for the operation of the committee.

11 (4) The office of the superintendent of public instruction, the  
12 academic achievement and accountability commission, the state board of  
13 education, and the professional educator standards board shall provide  
14 data and technical expertise to support the study.

15 (5) The office of financial management shall report initial  
16 findings and recommendations of the committee to the legislature,  
17 including the education and fiscal committees of the house of  
18 representatives and the senate, by June 30, 2004. A final report shall  
19 be provided to the education and fiscal committees of the house of  
20 representatives and the senate by December 20, 2004.

21 (6) This section expires June 30, 2005.

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