
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2955

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Hunter, Jarrett, Haigh, Cox, Tom, Schual-Berke, Kagi, Quall, Ruderman, Hunt, Santos, Armstrong, Nixon, O'Brien, Rockefeller, Edwards, Linville, Wallace, Conway and Morrell)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/04.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a joint task force on K-12 finance;
2 creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

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

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

1 (2) The task force shall, at a minimum:
2 (a) Consider the constitutional and legal requirements underlying
3 the current finance system;
4 (b) Compare Washington's common school funding system with those in
5 other states that are beginning to link finance systems with education
6 reform and expected levels of student achievement;
7 (c) Design alternative common school finance systems for Washington
8 that reflect principles that include but need not be limited to the
9 following:
10 (i) The finance system should be aligned with the policy
11 expectations and goals established under education reform;
12 (ii) Funds should be distributed equitably so that all children
13 have the opportunity to meet the state's academic standards and become
14 prepared for postsecondary education, including career and technical
15 education;
16 (iii) Staffing should be recognized as a key component of school
17 district costs, including the number of and compensation for
18 certificated instructional staff, certificated administrative staff,
19 and classified staff;
20 (iv) Stable and predictable basic education funding should be
21 provided by the state to school districts;
22 (v) Local flexibility and choice in program delivery at the
23 district and school levels should be enhanced;
24 (vi) The level of local funding beyond the state's basic education
25 allocations should be determined by local districts and taxpayers; and
26 (vii) Accountability for taxpayers that focuses on levels of
27 student achievement should be provided;
28 (d) Design one or more alternative compensation models that attract
29 and retain high performing teachers in all Washington schools and in
30 all academic subject areas and, in addition, may do one or more of the
31 following:
32 (i) Reward teachers for improving their skills and knowledge in a
33 manner that translates into improved student learning; and
34 (ii) Recognize regional cost-of-living differences as well as
35 recruitment challenges facing rural schools and schools with large
36 numbers of educationally disadvantaged students; and
37 (e) Review the role of noncertificated staff and the appropriate
38 types of compensation for these staff.

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

2 (a) Four members from the house of representatives, two from each
3 major caucus, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

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

6 (c) The superintendent of public instruction or the
7 superintendent's designee; and

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

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

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

15 (6) The task force shall select the persons or entities to conduct
16 various components of the study and shall approve the expenditure of
17 funds.

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

20 (8) The task force shall receive staff and logistical support from
21 the office of financial management, the office of the superintendent of
22 public instruction, the office of program research of the house of
23 representatives, and senate committee services.

24 (9) Legislative members of the task force shall be reimbursed for
25 travel expenses as provided in RCW 44.04.120. Other members of the
26 task force and the members of the advisory committee may be reimbursed
27 for travel expenses by the agencies or organizations that appointed or
28 nominated them.

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

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

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