
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4415

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Anderson, Haigh, Tom, Santos and Talcott

Read first time 01/14/2004. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 WHEREAS, The education of Washington's children is the state's
2 paramount duty and the state has an obligation to define and fund a
3 basic education for each child in the state's public school system; and

4 WHEREAS, Through education reform laws and revisions to the state's
5 basic education act, the state has determined that children need to
6 have educational opportunities based on academic standards set at
7 internationally competitive levels; and

8 WHEREAS, The legislature has not reexamined the components of the
9 state's basic education law since the passage of either the state
10 education reform act in 1993 or the federal "No Child Left Behind Act"
11 in 2002; and

12 WHEREAS, The state has not reexamined the definition of basic
13 education to determine its alignment with the expectations that
14 colleges and universities have for incoming freshmen; and

15 WHEREAS, The state has an obligation to fund its definition of
16 basic education so the definition needs to take into account the
17 state's expectations for students and its ability to pay for those
18 expectations for at least a generation of students; and

19 WHEREAS, The state also needs to stabilize and clarify its
20 educational expectations of parents, students, teachers, taxpayers,

1 employers and others on the types of achievement expected as a result
2 of a student receiving a basic education and the types of
3 accountability measures that need to be in place to address those
4 expectations;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives of
6 the state of Washington, the Senate concurring, That a joint select
7 committee be convened to review and make recommendations on the state's
8 basic education laws; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee be composed of eight
10 legislators, of which two from each major caucus, shall appoint, and
11 shall appoint two from each major caucus; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That members of the joint select committee
13 shall receive staff support from the office of program research and
14 senate committee services and per diem and travel per RCW 44.04.120;
15 and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That members of the joint select committee
17 shall examine the statutory definition of basic education to determine
18 whether the current requirements align with and support the goals and
19 requirements of the state's education reform laws and the national
20 education reform act, entitled the "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001"
21 and shall recommend to the legislature any refinements or modifications
22 needed to align the basic education laws to the state's education
23 reform laws; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee shall hold
25 at least one widely publicized public hearing in each legislative
26 district to accept public comment on the existing definition of basic
27 education and on possible modifications to that definition; and

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee may consult
29 with and create subcommittees that include, but need not be limited to
30 parents, students, education professionals, and interested community
31 members; and

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee report its
33 findings and recommendations to the legislature by January 3, 2007; and

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee be
35 dissolved by June 30, 2007.

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