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SENATE BILL 6449

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senators Eide, Carlson, Doumit, Schmidt, McAuliffe, Swecker, Keiser, Kastama, Prentice, Thibaudeau, Fairley, Kohl-Welles, Rasmussen, Fraser, Regala, Kline, Franklin, Berkey, Poulsen, Shin, B. Sheldon, Spanel, Esser, Winsley, Haugen and Jacobsen

Read first time 01/20/2004. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to an education finance study; creating a new  
2 section; making an appropriation; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The K-12 finance study executive  
5 committee is created to conduct a comprehensive K-12 education finance  
6 study. The comprehensive study shall address the following:

7 (a) The constitutional and legal requirements underlying the  
8 current finance system and how those requirements are affected by the  
9 goal under education reform to provide all students with the  
10 opportunity to achieve the state standards;

11 (b) The strengths and weaknesses of the current state and local  
12 finance formulas and how those formulas are used by local school  
13 districts to meet state requirements and student learning goals;

14 (c) Potential changes to the current finance system including the  
15 methods of allocating funds and the levels of funding and how student  
16 achievement is affected;

17 (d) Reviewing the funding systems in at least five other states.

18 (2) Members of the K-12 finance study executive committee shall  
19 include: The governor or the governor's designee; the superintendent

1 of public instruction or the superintendent's designee; one member from  
2 the senate democratic caucus and one member from the senate republican  
3 caucus appointed by the president of the senate; and one member from  
4 the house of representatives democratic caucus and one member from the  
5 house of representatives republican caucus appointed by the speaker of  
6 the house of representatives.

7 (3) The K-12 finance study executive committee shall select the  
8 person or entity to conduct the study and shall approve the expenditure  
9 of funds. The executive committee shall form an advisory committee  
10 with the members appointed jointly by the governor and the  
11 superintendent of public instruction including representatives of  
12 school boards, school superintendents, school principals, school  
13 business managers, certificated instructional staff, classified school  
14 employees, parents, business, and the public. The advisory committee  
15 shall advise both the executive committee and the person or entity  
16 conducting the study.

17 (4) The study shall be completed by July 1, 2006. The results  
18 shall be reported to the governor, the legislature, and the  
19 superintendent of public instruction.

20 (5) This section expires July 1, 2006.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sum of five hundred thousand dollars, or  
22 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the general  
23 fund for the biennium ending June 30, 2005, to the superintendent of  
24 public instruction to be spent for the comprehensive K-12 education  
25 finance study under section 1 of this act under the direction of the K-  
26 12 finance study executive committee created under section 1 of this  
27 act.

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