
HOUSE BILL 1661

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives P. Sullivan, Santos, Upthegrove, Walsh, Quall, Ormsby, Miloscia, Conway, Schual-Berke and Simpson

Read first time 01/24/2007. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to identifying the cost of delivering a basic
2 education; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the
5 Washington learns study took steps to establish a vision for education
6 in Washington and made recommendations for initial implementation of
7 that vision, but admittedly represented only a first phase of work.
8 Significant complexities and challenges characterize many aspects of
9 the state's education finance system, particularly in K-12 because of
10 constitutional mandates and the complex mixture of state and local
11 responsibilities.

12 (2) The legislature further finds that while a broadly
13 representative group of citizens, elected officials, educators, and
14 community and business leaders drawn from across the state provides an
15 excellent forum for establishing a vision for education, such a group
16 may not offer the best forum for the highly technical and complex work
17 of identifying the details of the costs of educating students in our
18 public schools, regardless of the high dedication and commitment of the
19 participants.

1 (3) Therefore, in order to move to the next phase of work in
2 creating a world-class educational system, the legislature intends to
3 commission an objective, nonpartisan study of the true cost for the
4 state to deliver, through our K-12 public school system, the basic
5 education guaranteed by the state Constitution to every child residing
6 in our state.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Washington state institute for
8 public policy shall conduct a detailed study of the cost for the state
9 to deliver, through the K-12 public school system, a basic education as
10 defined by Title 28A RCW, the state Constitution, and various court
11 decisions. The institute's study shall examine and provide cost
12 information for four scenarios:

13 (a) One where the definition of a basic education is as currently
14 defined in statute by the legislature and supplemented by decisions of
15 the courts;

16 (b) One where the definition of a basic education would include
17 estimated average class sizes and average salaries for certificated
18 instructional staff in public schools at or near the median compared to
19 other states;

20 (c) One where the definition of a basic education would include
21 estimated average class sizes and average salaries for certificated
22 instructional staff in public schools in the top ten percent compared
23 to other states; and

24 (d) One where the definition of a basic education would reflect a
25 level of resources, including class sizes, staffing, salaries, and
26 other resources, that would be equal to the resources available to
27 public schools in the state with the top performing students, as
28 measured by the national assessment of educational progress adjusted
29 for student demographics.

30 (2) The institute may contract with outside sources for portions of
31 the study but shall maintain control over and be responsible for the
32 integrity and thoroughness of the methodology, data collection,
33 analysis, and findings of the study as a whole.

34 (3) The institute shall make a progress report to the fiscal
35 committees of the legislature by January 15, 2008, and a final report

1 by November 1, 2008.

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