
HOUSE BILL 1415

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Representatives Dahlquist, Anderson, Hope, Dammeier, Fagan, Hargrove, Angel, Walsh, Taylor, Alexander, Warnick, Zeiger, Harris, Smith, Shea, and Kristiansen

Read first time 01/20/11. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to prioritizing basic education expenditures within
2 the state appropriations process; reenacting and amending RCW
3 28A.150.380; adding new sections to chapter 44.04 RCW; and providing a
4 contingent effective date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 Under Article IX, section 1 of the state Constitution, it is the
9 paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education
10 of all of Washington's children. According to the state supreme court,
11 this constitutional provision requires that the legislature define and
12 fully fund a program of K-12 basic education before the legislature
13 funds any other statutory programs. For these reasons, it is the
14 intent of the legislature to require that all appropriations for K-12
15 basic education, together with appropriations for other K-12 education
16 programs, be enacted into law before the legislature takes executive
17 action on other omnibus appropriations legislation.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.150.380 and 2009 c 548 s 110 and 2009 c 479 s 16
2 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

3 (1) The state legislature shall, at each regular session in an odd-
4 numbered year, appropriate for the current use of the common schools
5 such amounts as needed for state support to school districts during the
6 ensuing biennium for the program of basic education under RCW
7 28A.150.200.

8 (2) In addition to those state funds provided to school districts
9 for basic education, the legislature may appropriate funds to be
10 distributed to school districts for other factors and for other special
11 programs to enhance or enrich the program of basic education.

12 (3) The state legislature shall also, at each regular session in an
13 odd-numbered year, appropriate from the general fund and education
14 construction fund for the purposes of and in accordance with the
15 provisions of the student achievement act during the ensuing biennium.

16 (4) Beginning with the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium and thereafter,
17 appropriations for the purposes of this section and other K-12
18 education purposes must be made in legislation that is separate from
19 the omnibus operating appropriations act. Such appropriations must be
20 enacted into law before it is in order for either house of the
21 legislature to take executive action on omnibus operating
22 appropriations legislation.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04 RCW
24 to read as follows:

25 Beginning with the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium and thereafter,
26 appropriations for the purposes of RCW 28A.150.380 and other K-12
27 education purposes must be enacted into law before it is in order for
28 either house of the legislature to take executive action on omnibus
29 operating or transportation appropriations legislation.

30 The house of representatives and senate, jointly or separately, may
31 adopt rules or resolutions to implement their respective
32 responsibilities under this section.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act takes effect January 1, 2012, if
34 the proposed amendment to Article IX of the state Constitution HJR . .
35 . . (H-0681.1/11) is validly submitted to and is approved and ratified

1 by the voters at the next general election. If the proposed amendment
2 is not approved and ratified, this act is void in its entirety.

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