
Education Committee

HB 1803

Brief Description: Updating school district director compensation through the revision and preservation of a uniform compensation structure and an examination of future needs.

Sponsors: Representatives Callan, Harris, Dolan, Davis, Ramos, Santos, Senn, Sullivan, Pollet and Frame.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Increases the maximum daily compensation that school directors may receive from \$50 to \$128, and the annual compensation limit from \$4,800 to \$12,288.
- Allows school directors to receive reimbursement for childcare costs associated with attending meetings.
- Directs the Office of Financial Management to complete an examination of actual and potential school director compensation with a report due by November 18, 2022.

Hearing Date: 1/18/22

Staff: Ethan Moreno (786-7386).

Background:

School Directors.

The board of directors of each school district is its governing body. Boards of directors have broad discretionary power to provide for the development and implementation of programs, activities, services, or practices that the board determines will promote: the education and daily physical activity of public school students; and the effective, efficient, or safe management and operation of the school district.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

School director compensation rates and limits are prescribed in statute. School directors may receive \$50 for each full or partial day attending board meetings and performing other services on behalf of the school district, and the compensation each director may receive in a year may not exceed \$4,800. Authorizations for the compensation must be made by a board resolution at a regularly scheduled public meeting, and funds for the compensation may come only from locally collected excess levy funds. Additionally, school directors may waive all or any portion of their compensation through a written notice filed with the district.

School directors are also eligible for expense reimbursements. As provided in statute, the actual expenses of school directors going to, returning from, and attending directors' meetings or other meetings must be paid by the school district.

The Office of Financial Management.

The Office of Financial Management (OFM) provides information, fiscal services and policy support for the Governor and state agencies. State agencies and the Legislature also utilize information produced and provided by the OFM.

Primary responsibilities of the OFM include:

- preparing the executive budget proposal, and managing budget planning and fiscal administration for the executive branch;
- managing statewide human resource policy functions; and
- providing estimates of state and local population, monitoring changes in the state economy and labor force, and conducting research on a variety of issues affecting the state budget and public policy.

Summary of Bill:

School Directors.

The maximum daily compensation that school directors may receive is increased from \$50 to \$128, and the annual compensation limit is increased from \$4,800 to \$12,288. Additionally, school directors are specifically authorized to receive reimbursement for childcare costs associated with attending meetings.

The Office of Financial Management.

The OFM is directed to examine actual and potential school director compensation, including salaries, per diem rates, expense reimbursements, and health care benefits for the purpose of determining what changes in statute or practice, if any, would be necessary to align provisions governing school director compensation with those for other elected officials with comparable duties and responsibilities.

The examination, at a minimum, must address:

- the duties and responsibilities of school directors and to what extent those duties, and the factors relevant to their completion, may have changed in the previous 10 years;

- the significant variances in school district budgets, student enrollments, tax bases, and revenues;
- options for periodically updating school director compensation, including the frequency and timing of potential compensation reviews, potential entities that may be qualified to conduct the reviews, and considerations related to inflationary indices or other measures that reflect cost of living changes; and
- options for funding the actual and potential costs of school director compensation, including salaries, per diem amounts, expense reimbursements, and health care benefits.

In completing the examination, the OFM must consult with interested parties, including the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Washington State School Directors' Association, the Washington Association of School Administrators, and educational service districts.

The OFM must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the committees of the Legislature with jurisdiction over fiscal matters and kindergarten through grade 12 education by November 18, 2022.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 11, 2022.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.