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**HOUSE BILL 2636**

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**State of Washington                      69th Legislature                      2026 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Rude, Pollet, Marshall, and Santos

Read first time 01/22/26. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to requiring independent, balanced, and objective  
2 reviews of the performance, operations, and funding of the state's  
3 public education system; adding a new section to chapter 28A.655 RCW;  
4 creating a new section; and providing an effective date.

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

6            NEW SECTION.            **Sec. 1.**            (1) The legislature finds that  
7 Washington's system of public education is foundational to the  
8 state's economic vitality, civic health, and long-term prosperity.  
9 Over time, the legislature has enacted numerous policy requirements  
10 affecting public schools and school districts, many of which have  
11 imposed operational, administrative, and instructional obligations.

12            (2) The legislature further finds that not all policy  
13 requirements have been accompanied by sufficient or sustainable  
14 funding, and that cumulative mandates, particularly those enacted  
15 without full fiscal consideration, divert resources away from core  
16 educational priorities and student learning.

17            (3) The legislature, therefore, intends to establish an  
18 independent, balanced, and objective review of the performance,  
19 operations, and funding of the state's K-12 public education system.  
20 The purpose of the review is to evaluate whether existing statutory

1 requirements are achieving their intended outcomes, remain relevant  
2 and effective, and represent an efficient use of public resources.

3 (4) The legislature also intends that the review required by this  
4 act inform future legislative decision making by identifying  
5 requirements that should be maintained, modified, consolidated, or  
6 eliminated, and by highlighting instances where obligations imposed  
7 on schools and school districts were enacted without appropriate or  
8 sufficient funding. This ongoing review is intended to support  
9 alignment between policy, performance, and funding in Washington's  
10 public education system.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.655  
12 RCW to read as follows:

13 (1) The public education performance, operations, and funding  
14 review commission is established.

15 (2) The commission has 15 members as follows:

16 (a) The state auditor or the auditor's designee, who is a  
17 nonvoting member;

18 (b) A chair of the joint legislative audit and review committee  
19 or a chair's designee, who is a nonvoting member;

20 (c) The chairs of each of the two largest caucuses of the senate  
21 and the two largest caucuses of the house of representatives shall  
22 each appoint a member. None of these appointees may be members of the  
23 legislature;

24 (d) The superintendent of public instruction or the  
25 superintendent's designee;

26 (e) The chair of the state board of education or the chair's  
27 designee;

28 (f) The executive director of the Washington state charter school  
29 commission or the executive director's designee;

30 (g) One school principal, selected by an organization  
31 representing public school principals;

32 (h) One school director, selected by an organization representing  
33 public school directors;

34 (i) Two educators, one from a public primary school and one from  
35 a public secondary school, both selected by an organization  
36 representing educators;

37 (j) One representative selected by an organization representing  
38 public school business professionals; and

1 (k) One representative selected by an association representing  
2 public school administrators.

3 (3) Persons appointed by the caucus chairs should be individuals  
4 who represent a balance of perspectives and constituencies and have  
5 an understanding of education policy, the funding of public schools,  
6 and the delivery of elementary and secondary education to public  
7 school students. These appointees should have knowledge and expertise  
8 in pedagogical practices, performance management, fiscal analysis,  
9 and other fields relevant to public education.

10 (4) The commission shall elect a chair from among its voting or  
11 nonvoting members.

12 (5) Members serve for terms of four years, with the terms  
13 expiring on June 30th on the fourth year of the term. However, in the  
14 case of the initial terms, the members appointed by the chairs of  
15 senate caucuses shall serve four-year terms, and the members  
16 appointed by the chairs of house of representatives caucuses shall  
17 serve three-year terms, with each of the terms expiring on June 30th  
18 of the applicable year. Appointees may be reappointed to serve more  
19 than one term.

20 (6) The joint legislative audit and review committee shall  
21 provide staff support to the commission. The state board of education  
22 and the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
23 provide necessary support and information to the joint legislative  
24 audit and review committee.

25 (7) The commission shall examine policy requirements and provided  
26 funding for public schools enacted by the Washington state  
27 legislature, prioritizing the review of requirements enacted and  
28 funding allocated in the 10 years preceding the issuance of each  
29 annual report required by subsection (9) of this section. The purpose  
30 of the examination is to evaluate whether the policy requirement or  
31 provided funding:

32 (a) Achieved the goal or outcome expressed or reasonably inferred  
33 by the applicable legislation;

34 (b) Has a positive cost-benefit result;

35 (c) Has ongoing relevance and education value; and

36 (d) Should be maintained, modified, or repealed.

37 (8) The commission shall meet at least once a quarter and may  
38 hold additional meetings at the call of the chair or by a majority  
39 vote of the voting members of the commission. The members of the  
40 commission shall be compensated in accordance with RCW 43.03.220 and

1 reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and  
2 43.03.060.

3 (9) Beginning November 1, 2030, and annually thereafter, the  
4 commission shall issue a report to the governor and the appropriate  
5 fiscal and policy committees. The report must include findings and  
6 recommendations for the requirements and funding examined by the  
7 commission in the preceding year.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect July 1, 2029.

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