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SENATE BILL 5627

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Clements, Tom, Weinstein, Rockefeller, Oemig, Kastama, Hobbs, Pridemore, Eide, Franklin, Shin, Regala, Marr, Murray, Spanel, Hargrove, Kline, Kilmer, Haugen, Kohl-Welles and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/25/2007. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to basic education funding; creating new sections;  
2 and declaring an emergency.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** As the world has changed, the requirements  
5 of what a basic education is have also changed. The state's definition  
6 of basic education and the corresponding funding formulas must be  
7 regularly updated in order to keep pace with evolving educational  
8 practices and increasing state and federal requirements and to ensure  
9 that all schools have the resources they need to help give all students  
10 the opportunity to be fully prepared to compete in a global economy.  
11 The work of Washington learns steering committee and the K-12 advisory  
12 committee provides a valuable starting point from which to evaluate the  
13 current educational system and develop a unique, transparent, and  
14 stable educational funding system for Washington that supports the  
15 goals and the vision of a world-class learner-focused K-12 educational  
16 system that were established in the final Washington learns report.

17 This act is intended to make provision for some significant first  
18 steps towards a new basic education funding system and establishes a  
19 technical work group to address the details and next steps beyond the

1 2007-2009 biennium that will be necessary to implement a new  
2 comprehensive K-12 finance formula or formulas, that will provide  
3 Washington schools with stable and adequate funding as the expectations  
4 for the K-12 system continue to evolve.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1)(a) The Washington state institute for  
6 public policy shall staff a technical advisory committee to review all  
7 current basic education funding formulas and develop a new funding  
8 structure, and all necessary formulas, that is realigned with the new  
9 expectations of the state's education system as established in the  
10 November 2006 final report of the Washington learns steering committee  
11 and the basic education provisions established in chapter 28A.150 RCW.

12 (b) In selecting the members of the technical advisory committee,  
13 the Washington state institute for public policy shall, at a minimum,  
14 seek recommendations from the Washington state school directors'  
15 association, the Washington parent teacher association, the Washington  
16 association of school administrators, the Washington school principals  
17 association, the Washington education association, the Washington state  
18 special education coalition, the office of the superintendent of public  
19 instruction, the Washington association of career and technical  
20 education, public school employees of Washington, the Washington state  
21 association of multicultural education, and the Washington business  
22 roundtable; however, the Washington state institute for public policy  
23 is not required to select any individual submitted by the listed  
24 groups.

25 (2) The technical advisory committee shall:

26 (a) Consist of twelve members, not including the chair. The  
27 institute for public policy shall appoint eight of the twelve members  
28 and each of those eight members shall have documented significant  
29 experience with Washington K-12 finance issues including use and  
30 application of the current basic education funding formulas. The  
31 remaining four members shall be legislators. The president of the  
32 senate shall appoint one member from each of the two largest caucuses  
33 of the senate. The speaker of the house of representatives shall  
34 appoint one member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house  
35 of representatives;

36 (b) Have a chair with business experience who also has experience

1 with Washington finance issues including knowledge of the K-12 funding  
2 formulas, who is appointed by the governor;

3 (c) In developing its recommendations, review the reports related  
4 to K-12 finance produced at the request of or as a result of the  
5 Washington learns study, including reports completed for or by the K-12  
6 advisory committee;

7 (d) Provide an initial report to the governor and the legislature  
8 within sixty days of the effective date of this section establishing an  
9 initial plan of action, reporting deadlines, a timeline for fulfilling  
10 the requirements of this act, and an initial recommended timeline for  
11 a phased-in implementation of a new funding system that does not exceed  
12 six years;

13 (e) Provide a second report to the governor and the legislature by  
14 September 15, 2007, that includes recommendations, including  
15 implementing legislation as necessary, for at least two but no more  
16 than four options for allocating school employee compensation. One of  
17 the options must be outcome-based. The second report shall also  
18 include a finalized timeline and plan for addressing the remaining  
19 components of a new funding system; and

20 (f) Provide a final report with recommendations for at least two  
21 but no more than four options for revising the remaining K-12 funding  
22 structure, including implementing legislation as necessary, and a  
23 timeline for phasing in full adoption of the new funding structure.  
24 The final report shall be submitted to the governor and the legislature  
25 by January 1, 2008, unless the committee requests additional time from  
26 the legislature. One of the options must be outcome-based. The  
27 request for additional time may be in the form of a letter to the  
28 legislature. A written request for additional time shall be  
29 automatically granted with no action required by the legislature if the  
30 written request includes a detailed explanation of why additional time  
31 is needed, what issues remain to be resolved, and an estimated date  
32 that the final report will be made available.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The funding structure alternatives developed  
34 by the technical advisory committee under section 2 of this act shall  
35 take into consideration the legislative priorities in this subsection,  
36 to the maximum extent possible and as appropriate to each formula.

1 (1) The funding structure should reflect the most effective  
2 instructional strategies and service delivery models and be based on  
3 research-proven education programs and activities with demonstrated  
4 cost benefits. In reviewing the possible strategies and models to  
5 include in the funding structure the committee shall, at a minimum,  
6 consider the following issues:

7 (a) Professional development for all staff;

8 (b) Voluntary all-day kindergarten;

9 (c) Optimum class size, including different class sizes based on  
10 grade level and ways to reduce class size;

11 (d) Performance-based compensation;

12 (e) Focused instructional support for students and schools;

13 (f) Extended school day and school year options; and

14 (g) Health and safety requirements.

15 (2) The recommendations should provide maximum transparency of the  
16 state's educational funding system in order to better help parents,  
17 citizens, and school personnel in Washington understand how their  
18 school system is funded.

19 (3) The funding structure should be linked to accountability for  
20 student outcomes and performance.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
22 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
23 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
24 immediately.

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