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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2631

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State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Peery, Brough, H. Sommers, Neher, Sheldon, Roland, Valle, Paris, Pruitt, Mitchell, Prentice, Betrozoff, Rasmussen, P. Johnson and J. Kohl)

Read first time 02/03/92.

1 AN ACT Relating to school construction funding; amending RCW  
2 28A.525.162; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the number of  
5 students attending our public K-12 schools has grown significantly in  
6 recent years, and that this enrollment growth is projected to continue  
7 in the years ahead. The legislature further finds that the  
8 availability of funds from the common school construction fund, which  
9 has historically been the primary source of capital for new school  
10 construction, has been substantially reduced because of reductions in  
11 timber harvesting from state-owned lands. The legislature further  
12 finds that this increase in demand for new school construction and the  
13 reduction in available school construction funds make it imperative  
14 that measures be taken to use our existing school buildings more

1 efficiently before allocating state funds for the construction of new  
2 schools.

3       **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.525.162 and 1990 c 33 s 455 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5       (1) Funds appropriated to the state board of education (~~from the~~  
6 ~~common school construction fund~~) for modernization and construction of  
7 school facilities shall be allotted by the state board of education in  
8 accordance with student enrollment and the provisions of RCW  
9 28A.525.200.

10       (2) No allotment shall be made to a school district until such  
11 district has provided matching funds equal to or greater than the  
12 difference between the total approved project cost and the amount of  
13 state assistance to the district for financing the project computed  
14 pursuant to RCW 28A.525.166, with the following exceptions:

15       (a) The state board may waive the matching requirement for  
16 districts which have provided funds for school building construction  
17 purposes through the authorization of bonds or through the  
18 authorization of excess tax levies or both in an amount equivalent to  
19 two and one-half percent of the value of its taxable property, as  
20 defined in RCW 39.36.015.

21       (b) No such matching funds shall be required as a condition to the  
22 allotment of funds for the purpose of making major or minor structural  
23 changes to existing school facilities in order to bring such facilities  
24 into compliance with the handicapped access requirements of section 504  
25 of the federal rehabilitation act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 706) and  
26 rules implementing the act.

27       (3) For the purpose of computing the state matching percentage  
28 under RCW 28A.525.166 when a school district is granted authority to  
29 enter into contracts, adjusted valuation per pupil shall be calculated

1 using headcount student enrollments from the most recent October  
2 enrollment reports submitted by districts to the superintendent of  
3 public instruction, adjusted as follows:

4 (a) In the case of projects for which local bonds were approved  
5 after May 11, 1989:

6 (i) For districts which have been designated as serving high school  
7 districts under RCW 28A.540.110, students residing in the nonhigh  
8 district so designating shall be excluded from the enrollment count if  
9 the student is enrolled in any grade level not offered by the nonhigh  
10 district;

11 (ii) The enrollment of nonhigh school districts shall be increased  
12 by the number of students residing within the district who are enrolled  
13 in a serving high school district so designated by the nonhigh school  
14 district under RCW 28A.540.110, including only students who are  
15 enrolled in grade levels not offered by the nonhigh school district;  
16 and

17 (iii) The number of preschool handicapped students included in the  
18 enrollment count shall be multiplied by one-half;

19 (b) In the case of construction or modernization of high school  
20 facilities in districts serving students from nonhigh school districts,  
21 the adjusted valuation per pupil shall be computed using the combined  
22 adjusted valuations and enrollments of each district, each weighted by  
23 the percentage of the district's resident high school students served  
24 by the high school district; and

25 (c) The number of kindergarten students included in the enrollment  
26 count shall be multiplied by one-half.

27 (4) Funds appropriated to the state board of education for  
28 modernization and construction of school facilities shall be allocated  
29 to school districts on the basis of a priority system adopted by the  
30 board. In allocating funds in fiscal year 1994 and thereafter, for the

1 construction of new school facilities to meet enrollment growth,  
2 priority shall be given to projects in districts that have implemented  
3 a modified school calendar or schedule that is designed to increase the  
4 pupil capacity of the district's school buildings. The state board may  
5 allocate funds specifically appropriated to the board for financial  
6 assistance to school districts for planning and implementing a modified  
7 school calendar or schedule.

8       (5) The state board of education shall prescribe and make effective  
9 such rules and regulations as are necessary to equate insofar as  
10 possible the efforts made by school districts to provide capital funds  
11 by the means aforesaid.

12       ~~((5))~~ (6) For the purposes of this section, "preschool  
13 handicapped students" means developmentally disabled children of  
14 preschool age who are entitled to services under RCW 28A.155.010  
15 through 28A.155.100 and are not included in the kindergarten enrollment  
16 count of the district.

17       NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. Before January 15, 1993, the state board  
18 of education shall submit to the appropriate committees of the  
19 legislature the priority system it plans to use in implementing section  
20 2 of this act.