

---

HOUSE BILL 1710

---

State of Washington                      55th Legislature                      1997 Regular Session

By Representatives McMorris, Cole and Kessler

Read first time 02/05/97. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to technology grants; adding new sections to  
2 chapter 28A.650 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that prudent use  
5 of technology can result in increased student learning. Further, the  
6 use of technology is an emerging technique in the educational process,  
7 and there is a need to test new approaches of its use through pilot  
8 projects in order to establish effectiveness and details for  
9 educational best practices.

10           The legislature also recognizes that special circumstances can  
11 occur and selected school districts may need temporary assistance to  
12 acquire equipment and provide opportunities for staff to acquire skills  
13 necessary to effectively use technology to improve student learning.

14           School districts are currently allocated resources for nonemployee-  
15 related costs sufficient for purposes of basic education. The purpose  
16 of this act is to provide temporary assistance beyond basic education  
17 for technology needs of qualifying school districts through conditions  
18 established in this act.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    To the extent funds are provided in the  
2 omnibus appropriations act, technology grants shall be provided to  
3 qualifying school districts, consortia of school districts, or  
4 educational service districts.    School districts and educational  
5 service districts are eligible for grants if they either have an  
6 ongoing program emphasizing specific approaches to learning assisted by  
7 technology or are identified by the center for the improvement of  
8 student learning based on best practices and:

9        (1) The school district shall match state funds on a fifty percent  
10 basis with a combination of:

11        (a) Contributions through partnerships with technology companies,  
12 educational service districts, institutions of higher education,  
13 community and technical colleges, or any other organization with  
14 expertise in applications of technology to learning that is willing to  
15 assist school districts in applying technology to the learning process  
16 through in-kind assistance; and

17        (b) School district funds; and

18        (2) The district has plans and means for evaluating the short and  
19 long-term student learning resulting from the technology-based  
20 strategies of the district.

21        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    Priority for award of funds awarded under  
22 section 4 of this act will be to (1) school districts most in need of  
23 assistance due to financial limits and (2) school districts least  
24 prepared to take advantage of technology as a means of improving  
25 student learning.    The superintendent of public instruction, in  
26 consultation with the technology education committee created in section  
27 4 of this act, shall propose options to the committee for identifying  
28 and prioritizing districts according to award criteria in subsections  
29 (1) and (2) of this section.    Options for review criteria to be  
30 considered by the superintendent of public instruction include, but are  
31 not limited to, free and reduced lunches, levy revenues, ending fund  
32 balances, equipment inventories, and surveys of technology  
33 preparedness.

34        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    (1) The superintendent of public instruction  
35 shall appoint a technology education committee to develop an  
36 application and review process for awarding the technology grants  
37 established in section 2 of this act.    The committee shall be appointed

1 by the superintendent and shall consist of representatives from  
2 technology companies, technology coordinators representing educational  
3 service districts, school districts, higher education, and other  
4 relevant occupations. The superintendent shall select the chair of the  
5 committee.

6 (2) The technology committee shall identify the priority of  
7 projects and level of funding to the superintendent of public  
8 instruction. To the extent funds are available, the superintendent  
9 shall award technology grants according to the priority listing of  
10 districts recommended by the technology education committee.

11 (3) Projects funded through awards under this section may be part  
12 of multiyear projects extending beyond the effective dates of  
13 appropriations provided for the purposes of sections 2 through 4 of  
14 this act if the district commits to maintaining the project with  
15 matching funds beyond the funding period of the appropriations act  
16 funding the project.

17 (4) Subject to available funding, the superintendent of public  
18 instruction shall award the first round of projects by July 1, 1997.  
19 No more than fifty percent of funds provided for awards under this  
20 section may be awarded in the first round of awards.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The superintendent of public instruction, in  
22 consultation with the appropriate committees of the legislature, shall  
23 specify the data that projects need to report in order for the  
24 superintendent of public instruction to provide a progress report to  
25 the legislature by December 15th of each year for which an  
26 appropriation is provided for sections 2 through 4 of this act.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 2 through 5 of this act are each  
28 added to chapter 28A.650 RCW.

--- END ---