
HOUSE BILL 1759

State of Washington 55th Legislature 1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Schoesler, Thompson, Mielke and Sherstad

Read first time 02/07/97. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to eliminating the state board of education; and
2 creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the governance of
5 our current education system is overly fragmented and decentralized.
6 This fragmentation has led to excessive bureaucracy and regulation of
7 schools to the point where the effective delivery of education services
8 is overshadowed by reporting and compliance requirements which deplete
9 precious human and financial resources.

10 The legislature also finds that the many governance units with
11 influence over education issues are systematically reducing the locus
12 of control for education decisions. It is the desire of the
13 legislature that the governance of our education system rest primarily
14 with elected local school board officials held accountable by their
15 constituency, yet subject to minimum oversight by a primary unit of
16 governance.

17 Increasingly, schools are faced with new rules which relate only
18 tangentially to the education process and adversely impact the
19 effective delivery of education services in the classrooms. As schools

1 attempt to respond to these changes, their primary role as educators is
2 reduced to that of a reporting and monitoring entity which must
3 secondarily provide education services. Many new rules reach far
4 beyond the scope of those which should be adopted by a state education
5 governing entity and severely restrict the authority of those charged
6 with the delivery of education services to exercise their professional
7 judgment to do what is best for the children in their schools.

8 In order to eliminate much of this unnecessary and excessive
9 regulation, restore locus of control to local school boards, and
10 improve the level of education services provided to students, the
11 legislature intends to restructure the education governance system of
12 our state by eliminating the state board of education, reassigning a
13 number of their duties to more appropriate entities, and eliminating
14 those which are excessively regulating our schools.

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