
SENATE BILL 6266

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Hochstatter, Goings, Johnson, Loveland, Thibaudeau, Snyder, B. Sheldon, Rasmussen, Fraser, Patterson, Kohl, Haugen, Zarelli, Brown, Long, Fairley, Winsley, Spanel and Jacobsen

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to improving class size; adding new sections to
2 chapter 28A.150 RCW; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.150
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 The legislature finds that Washington's schools have some of the
7 largest classes in the nation. The legislature further finds that
8 reducing class sizes will provide students with the individual
9 attention they need to learn to the best of their abilities. The
10 legislature further finds that providing for smaller classes will help
11 provide a safer and more disciplined learning environment.

12 The legislature intends to help school districts provide smaller
13 classes for their students. The legislature recognizes that by
14 improving class sizes over the next ten years, sufficient quality staff
15 can be hired, districts can decide how to best use the staff, and space
16 needs can be planned for and met.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.150
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) The class size improvement program is created. To the extent
4 funds are appropriated, funds shall be allocated to eligible school
5 districts to be used to provide lower class sizes consistent with the
6 district's class size improvement plan.

7 (2) To be eligible for the funds, the district shall:

8 (a) Develop a class size improvement plan. The plan shall specify
9 how the funds will be used to lower the number of students per
10 instructional staff at certain grade levels, for specific subjects or
11 in specific settings. The plan shall include the reasons for the plan;
12 the qualifications of the staff that will be used and training of
13 staff, if applicable; use of facilities if appropriate; how class size
14 will be improved in the classroom; and the effects of class size
15 improvement on student learning. The plan shall also include
16 strategies for continuing to improve class size as funds become
17 available in future years; and

18 (b) Report to the superintendent of public instruction about the
19 implementation of the plan and the effect of improving class size on
20 student learning.

21 (3) The superintendent of public instruction may adopt rules, as
22 necessary, to implement this section.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of twenty-five million dollars, or
24 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal
25 year ending June 30, 1999, from the general fund to the superintendent
26 of public instruction for the purposes of this act.

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