

1 **2SHB 2348** - H AMD

2 By Representative Anderson

3 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
4 following:

5 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** As the disparity in the cost-of-living
6 between different regions and locales in the state has grown in recent
7 years, the purchasing power of salaries has become more disparate for
8 K-12 employees. A major contributor to these costs is housing. The
9 purpose of this act is to commission a study on the impact of housing
10 costs on nonsupervisory K-12 employees and to provide the governor and
11 the Legislature with a set of recommendations designed to address those
12 costs within the state's constitutionally required general and uniform
13 system of public schools.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The education housing task force is
15 created to study and report on the issues that need to be addressed in
16 order to provide housing allowances or otherwise meet the housing needs
17 of nonsupervisory education employees.

18 (2) The education housing task force shall include seven members
19 selected as follows: one member appointed by the governor; one member
20 appointed by the superintendent of public instruction; two members of
21 the house of representatives, one from each major caucus of the
22 education committee, appointed by the speaker of the house of
23 representatives; two members of the senate, one from each major caucus
24 of the education committee, appointed by the president of the senate;
25 and a nonvoting chair selected by the other members of the task force.
26 Each voting member of the task force may appoint a designee.

27 (3) The members of the task force shall be appointed and commence
28 the study by August 1, 2002.

29 (4) By December 1, 2003 the task force shall report to the
30 governor and the legislative education and fiscal committees on
31 possible ways to provide a housing allowance or otherwise meet the
32 housing needs of nonsupervisory education employees.

33 (5) The economic and revenue forecast supervisor and staff shall
34 provide staff support to the task force. The economic and revenue
35 forecast supervisor may enter into contracts for any research or other
36 services necessary to fulfill the duties of the task force.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** In its deliberations, the education housing
2 task force shall include but need not be limited to consideration of
3 the following questions:

4 (1) What are some possible options that could be used to address
5 differences in regional and local housing costs for nonsupervisory
6 educational employees?

7 (2) What are the benefits and challenges of providing a regional
8 or local housing allowance from different funding sources that include
9 but need not be limited to:

10 (a) Additional state funding;

11 (b) Current state funding levels;

12 (c) Existing maintenance and operation levy limitations;

13 (d) Higher maintenance and operation levy limitations; and

14 (e) State bond sales for an education housing trust?

15 (3) What could form the basis of a system of housing cost
16 allowances, a system based on equity, or on the need to reduce
17 attrition and turnover, or on both?

18 (4) If a housing allowance is based on attrition and turnover, is
19 there evidence that attrition and turnover are highest in the school
20 districts with the highest living or housing costs?

21 (5) What is the most appropriate geographic unit upon which to
22 differentiate pay based on the cost of housing?

23 (6) Should a housing allowance be a fixed dollar allowance for all
24 eligible personnel or a percentage of salary, or inversely
25 proportionate to salary levels?

26 (7) Should a housing allowance be based on comparative costs
27 across school districts or regions, or on a comparison of private
28 sector wages across regions or on the housing needs of individual
29 employees?

30 (8) Can quality of life issues that may affect the location
31 decisions of nonsupervisory education employees be factored into
32 monetary compensation issues such as housing costs?

33 (9) If nonsupervisory education employees receive housing
34 allowances, should the same system be extended to other state
35 employees?

36 (10) Should options in lieu of housing allowances be considered,
37 options that may include but need not be limited to:

38 (a) Down payment assistance for nonsupervisory education employees
39 in qualifying districts;

1 (b) Low-interest loans or mortgage subsidies for nonsupervisory
2 education employees in qualifying districts; and
3 (c) Capital bond proceeds to buy-down mortgages?
4 (11) What are the legal implications of a housing allowance on
5 state requirements to define and fund basic education, provide funding
6 equity for students, and provide a general and uniform system of public
7 schools?
8 (12) Within different nonsupervisory employee classifications,
9 should there be additional eligibility limitations or preferences to
10 guide local collective bargaining efforts?"
11 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Removes all references to the implementation of a housing allowance and substitutes a study to consider and report on the issues that must be addressed in order to provide a housing allowance to non-supervisory certificated and classified staff. Creates a seven member task force to study the issues, lists some of the issues to be considered, and directs the task force to report by December 1, 2003.