
HOUSE BILL 1434

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Anderson, Shabro, Nixon, Pflug, Talcott, Tom, Jarrett and Cairnes

Read first time 01/27/2003. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to studying housing needs of nonsupervisory
2 education employees; and creating new sections.

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

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

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

17 (2) The education housing task force shall include seven members
18 selected as follows: One member appointed by the governor; one member

1 appointed by the superintendent of public instruction; two members of
2 the house of representatives committee on education, one from each
3 major caucus, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;
4 two members of the senate committee on education, one from each major
5 caucus, appointed by the president of the senate; and a nonvoting chair
6 selected by the other members of the task force. Each voting member of
7 the task force may appoint a designee.

8 (3) The members of the task force shall be appointed and commence
9 the study by August 1, 2003.

10 (4) By October 1, 2004, the task force shall report to the governor
11 and the legislative education and fiscal committees on possible ways to
12 provide a housing allowance or otherwise meet the housing needs of
13 nonsupervisory education employees.

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

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

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

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

27 (a) Additional state funding;

28 (b) Current state funding levels;

29 (c) Existing maintenance and operation levy limitations;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 (9) If nonsupervisory education employees receive housing
13 allowances, should the same system be extended to other state
14 employees?

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

17 (a) Downpayment assistance for nonsupervisory education employees
18 in qualifying districts;

19 (b) Low-interest loans or mortgage subsidies for nonsupervisory
20 education employees in qualifying districts; and

21 (c) Capital bond proceeds to buy-down mortgages?

22 (11) What are the legal implications of a housing allowance on
23 state requirements to define and fund basic education, provide funding
24 equity for students, and provide a general and uniform system of public
25 schools?

26 (12) Within different nonsupervisory employee classifications,
27 should there be additional eligibility limitations or preferences to
28 guide local collective bargaining efforts?

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