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ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2955

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Hunter, Jarrett, Haigh, Cox, Tom, Schual-Berke, Kagi, Quall, Ruderman, Hunt, Santos, Armstrong, Nixon, O'Brien, Rockefeller, Edwards, Linville, Wallace, Conway and Morrell)

READ FIRST TIME 02/10/04.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a joint task force on K-12 finance;  
2 creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that more than a  
5 quarter of a century has passed since the current school finance system  
6 was first created, and that the challenges facing our schools and  
7 students have grown and changed dramatically during that time. The  
8 legislature intends to examine the school finance system to determine  
9 whether it is appropriately linked to the demands of education reform  
10 and to the goal of providing all children in the state the opportunity  
11 to meet standards.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The joint task force on K-12 finance is  
13 created to study the common school finance system and to develop  
14 alternative funding models for that finance system. The alternatives  
15 shall include one or more models that can be fully funded within the  
16 existing total federal, state, and local capital and operating  
17 expenditures for public schools and may include alternatives that  
18 require new or additional funding.

1 (2) The task force shall, at a minimum:  
2 (a) Consider the constitutional and legal requirements underlying  
3 the current finance system;  
4 (b) Compare Washington's common school funding system with those in  
5 other states that are beginning to link finance systems with education  
6 reform and expected levels of student achievement;  
7 (c) Design alternative common school finance systems for Washington  
8 that reflect principles that include but need not be limited to the  
9 following:  
10 (i) The finance system should be aligned with the policy  
11 expectations and goals established under education reform;  
12 (ii) Funds should be distributed equitably so that all children  
13 have the opportunity to meet the state's academic standards and become  
14 prepared for postsecondary education, including career and technical  
15 education;  
16 (iii) Staffing should be recognized as a key component of school  
17 district costs, including the number of and compensation for  
18 certificated instructional staff, certificated administrative staff,  
19 and classified staff;  
20 (iv) Stable and predictable basic education funding should be  
21 provided by the state to school districts;  
22 (v) Local flexibility and choice in program delivery at the  
23 district and school levels should be enhanced;  
24 (vi) The level of local funding beyond the state's basic education  
25 allocations should be determined by local districts and taxpayers; and  
26 (vii) Accountability for taxpayers that focuses on levels of  
27 student achievement should be provided;  
28 (d) Design one or more alternative compensation models that attract  
29 and retain high performing teachers in all Washington schools and in  
30 all academic subject areas and, in addition, may do one or more of the  
31 following:  
32 (i) Reward teachers for improving their skills and knowledge in a  
33 manner that translates into improved student learning; and  
34 (ii) Recognize regional cost-of-living differences as well as  
35 recruitment challenges facing rural schools and schools with large  
36 numbers of educationally disadvantaged students; and  
37 (e) Review the role of noncertificated staff and the appropriate  
38 types of compensation for these staff.

1 (3) The task force shall consist of the following members:

2 (a) Four members from the house of representatives, two from each  
3 major caucus, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

4 (b) Four members from the senate, two from each major caucus,  
5 appointed by the president of the senate;

6 (c) The superintendent of public instruction or the  
7 superintendent's designee; and

8 (d) The governor or the governor's designee.

9 (4) The task force shall create an advisory committee that includes  
10 but need not be limited to: Educators, principals, administrators,  
11 school directors, parents, educational service districts, organizations  
12 representing employers and employees, the Gates foundation, and the  
13 University of Washington center for reinventing education.

14 (5) The chair shall be appointed by the governor.

15 (6) The task force shall select the persons or entities to conduct  
16 various components of the study and shall approve the expenditure of  
17 funds.

18 (7) Appointments to the task force shall be completed within thirty  
19 days of the effective date of this section.

20 (8) The task force shall receive staff and logistical support from  
21 the office of financial management, the office of the superintendent of  
22 public instruction, the office of program research of the house of  
23 representatives, and senate committee services.

24 (9) Legislative members of the task force shall be reimbursed for  
25 travel expenses as provided in RCW 44.04.120. Other members of the  
26 task force and the members of the advisory committee may be reimbursed  
27 for travel expenses by the agencies or organizations that appointed or  
28 nominated them.

29 (10) The task force shall report findings and recommendations to  
30 the legislature by October 1, 2006.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires June 30, 2007.

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