
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4415

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2004 Regular Session

By House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Anderson, Haigh, Tom, Santos and Talcott)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/04.

1 WHEREAS, The education of Washington's children is the state's
2 paramount duty and the state has an obligation to define and fund a
3 basic education for each child in the state's public school system; and
4 WHEREAS, Through education reform laws and revisions to the state's
5 basic education act, the state has determined that children need to
6 have educational opportunities based on academic standards set at
7 internationally competitive levels; and
8 WHEREAS, The legislature has not reexamined the components of the
9 state's basic education law since the passage of either the state
10 education reform act in 1993 or the federal "No Child Left Behind Act"
11 in 2001; and
12 WHEREAS, The state has not reexamined the definition of basic
13 education to determine its alignment with the expectations that
14 colleges and universities have for incoming freshmen; and
15 WHEREAS, The state has an obligation to fund its definition of
16 basic education, so the definition needs to take into account the
17 state's expectations for students and its ability to pay for those
18 expectations for at least a generation of students; and
19 WHEREAS, The state also needs to stabilize and clarify its
20 educational expectations of parents, students, teachers, taxpayers,

1 employers, and others on the types of achievement expected as a result
2 of a student receiving a basic education and the types of
3 accountability measures that need to be in place to address those
4 expectations;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives of
6 the state of Washington, the Senate concurring, That a joint select
7 committee be convened to review and make recommendations on the state's
8 basic education laws; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee be composed of eight
10 legislators, of which four, two from each major caucus, shall be
11 appointed by the president of the senate, and four, two from each major
12 caucus, shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of
13 representatives; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That members of the joint select committee
15 shall receive staff support from the office of program research and
16 senate committee services and per diem and travel per RCW 44.04.120;
17 and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That members of the joint select committee
19 shall examine the statutory definition of basic education to determine
20 whether the current requirements align with and support the goals and
21 requirements of the state's education reform laws and the national
22 education reform act, entitled the "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001"
23 and shall recommend to the legislature any refinements or modifications
24 needed to align the basic education laws to the state's education
25 reform laws; and

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee shall hold
27 at least one widely publicized public hearing in the area served by
28 each educational service district to accept public comment on the
29 existing definition of basic education and on possible modifications to
30 that definition; and

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee may consult
32 with and create subcommittees that include, but need not be limited to
33 parents, students, education professionals, and interested community
34 members; and

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee report its
36 findings and recommendations to the legislature by January 3, 2007; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee be
2 dissolved by June 30, 2007.

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