
HOUSE BILL 2061

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives P. Sullivan, Appleton, Ormsby, Simpson and Santos

Read first time 02/06/2007. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to classified school employees; and creating a new
2 section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that classified
5 school employees are essential to the K-12 school system. The
6 contributions of classified school employees to the health, safety, and
7 efficient operation of each school building and each school district
8 should not be, but all too frequently are, underestimated. Students
9 cannot learn without an effective learning environment. The provision
10 of such a learning environment should be one of the core goals of the
11 basic education act and the state resources that are allocated to
12 support basic education. Yet more than forty percent of classified
13 school employees are paid through local dollars rather than by state
14 dollars. The state funding formulas for classified school staffing
15 have not been revised since their inception nearly thirty years ago.
16 Therefore, the legislature intends to take steps that will lead to the
17 desired outcome of reducing school district reliance on local funds to
18 support classified school employees and increase the state's commitment
19 to provide adequate levels of staffing in these critical support areas.

1 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall examine current
2 classified school staffing patterns and trends in school districts and
3 identify the levels of staffing, by type of staff, necessary to support
4 an effective learning environment. The superintendent shall examine
5 the extent to which classified staff are serving local and federally
6 funded supplemental programs and the extent to which classified staff
7 support state-funded programs. Based on this examination, the
8 superintendent shall recommend a staffing and funding level and
9 methodology for state-supported classified school employees. The
10 superintendent shall also recommend a strategic plan for increasing
11 state support for classified school employees.

12 (3) The superintendent of public instruction shall submit the
13 findings and recommendations by December 1, 2007.

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