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HOUSE BILL 3117

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Hunter, Sullivan, and McIntire

Read first time 01/22/08. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1            AN ACT Relating to transparency in state funding for K-12 public  
2 schools; and adding a new section to chapter 28A.150 RCW.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.150  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6            (1) When the governor submits a budget bill under RCW 43.88.060  
7 that contains appropriations proposed for support of the operation of  
8 the common schools, the governor shall also cause to be prepared an  
9 accompanying legislative evaluation and accountability program  
10 committee document as described in this section. The fiscal committees  
11 of the house of representatives and the senate shall direct the  
12 legislative evaluation and accountability program committee to update  
13 the document based on each subsequent version of the budget bill that  
14 is publicly proposed and acted upon by a legislative committee, adopted  
15 by the house of representatives or the senate, or enacted by the  
16 legislature.

17            (2) The purpose of the legislative evaluation and accountability  
18 program committee document under this section is to make transparent to  
19 the public, using categories and terms that are readily understood,

1 examples of the type and level of educational programs and services  
2 supported by funding appropriated in the omnibus appropriations act  
3 under specified programs for support of the common schools. Such  
4 transparency allows and enhances public debate regarding the level of  
5 state resources to support the common schools. The information in the  
6 legislative evaluation and accountability program committee document is  
7 for illustration purposes only. It is not intended, nor shall it be  
8 construed, that school districts are expected or required to expend  
9 funds in a manner consistent with the document.

10 (3) Each legislative evaluation and accountability program  
11 committee document prepared under this section shall provide estimates  
12 for the following items, based on the level of state funding  
13 appropriated in the budget bill for which the document is prepared and  
14 for the school year immediately following the legislative session in  
15 which the bill is considered:

16 (a) For the general apportionment program:

17 (i) Estimated state-funded class size in elementary, middle, and  
18 high school grade spans;

19 (ii) Average state-funded teacher salary, total teacher  
20 compensation, administrator salary, and classified staff salary;

21 (iii) Estimated number of state-funded staff of various  
22 classifications in a hypothetical average-sized school; and

23 (iv) Estimated amount per pupil for nonemployee-related costs,  
24 including a breakdown of the per pupil amount by selected major  
25 categories of expenditure;

26 (b) For the learning assistance program, the transitional bilingual  
27 program, and the highly capable student program: Estimated hours of  
28 additional instruction per week in each program;

29 (c) For the special education excess cost allocation: Estimated  
30 amount per eligible student;

31 (d) For the promoting academic success program: Estimated hours of  
32 remediation for various types of students, hours of teacher planning  
33 time, and class size; and

34 (e) For the student achievement fund: Estimated amount per pupil  
35 in each category of use of the funds under RCW 28A.505.210 and  
36 estimated staffing or additional instructional time supported by the  
37 funds in a hypothetical average-sized school.

1           (4) Each document shall also contain a brief narrative description  
2 of how the estimates provided under subsection (3) of this section were  
3 calculated and the major assumptions behind the calculations.  
4 Estimates may be developed using documented expenditure patterns of  
5 school districts, best practices, or other sources of information.

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