
HOUSE BILL 1657

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Anderson, Priest, Parker, Ross, Smith, Haler, Herrera, Klippert, Cox, Dammeier, Orcutt, Angel, Johnson, McCune, Bailey, Walsh, Ericksen, Schmick, Short, Pearson, Roach, Rodne, Hope, Newhouse, and Armstrong

Read first time 01/27/09. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to prioritizing basic education expenditures within
2 the state appropriations process; amending RCW 28A.150.380; adding new
3 sections to chapter 44.04 RCW; and providing a contingent effective
4 date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 Under Article IX, section 1 of the state Constitution, it is the
9 paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education
10 of all of Washington's children. According to the state supreme court,
11 this constitutional provision requires that the legislature define and
12 fully fund a program of K-12 basic education before the legislature
13 funds any other statutory programs. For these reasons, it is the
14 intent of the legislature to require that all appropriations for K-12
15 basic education, together with appropriations for other K-12 education
16 programs, be enacted into law before the legislature takes executive
17 action on other omnibus appropriations legislation.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.150.380 and 2001 c 3 s 10 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 (1) The state legislature shall, at each regular session in an odd-
4 numbered year, appropriate from the state general fund for the current
5 use of the common schools such amounts as needed for state support to
6 the common schools during the ensuing biennium as provided in this
7 chapter, RCW 28A.160.150 through 28A.160.210, 28A.300.170, and
8 28A.500.010.

9 (2) The state legislature shall also, at each regular session in an
10 odd-numbered year, appropriate from the student achievement fund and
11 education construction fund solely for the purposes of and in
12 accordance with the provisions of the student achievement act during
13 the ensuing biennium.

14 (3) Beginning with the 2011-2013 fiscal biennium and thereafter,
15 appropriations for the purposes of this section and other K-12
16 education purposes must be made in legislation that is separate from
17 the omnibus operating appropriations act. Such appropriations must be
18 enacted into law before it is in order for either house of the
19 legislature to take executive action on omnibus operating
20 appropriations legislation.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04 RCW
22 to read as follows:

23 Beginning with the 2011-2013 fiscal biennium and thereafter,
24 appropriations for the purposes of RCW 28A.150.380 and other K-12
25 education purposes must be enacted into law before it is in order for
26 either house of the legislature to take executive action on omnibus
27 operating or transportation appropriations legislation.

28 The house of representatives and senate, jointly or separately, may
29 adopt rules or resolutions to implement their respective
30 responsibilities under this section.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act takes effect January 1, 2010, if
32 the proposed amendment to Article IX of the state Constitution HJR . .
33 . . (H-0379.1/09) is validly submitted to and is approved and ratified
34 by the voters at the next general election. If the proposed amendment

1 is not approved and ratified, this act is void in its entirety.

--- END ---