
HOUSE BILL 2840

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2010 Regular Session

By Representatives Kretz and Short

Read first time 01/14/10. Referred to Committee on Education Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to examining levy-funded employee-related costs of
2 school districts; amending RCW 28A.290.010; amending 2009 c 548 s 302
3 (uncodified); and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that additional
6 analysis and examination is needed of how resources from voter-approved
7 excess levies are used, particularly for employee-related costs that
8 exceed state allocations of funding. The legislature further finds
9 that such an analysis is particularly timely given the creation of the
10 local finance working group under chapter 548, Laws of 2009, which is
11 scheduled to commence its work in 2010. Furthermore, the quality
12 education council should add such an examination to its workplan for
13 2010 and make recommendations to the 2011 legislature regarding how
14 supplemental employee-related costs should be addressed in a revised
15 system of local funding and local effort assistance for public schools.

16 **Sec. 2.** 2009 c 548 s 302 (uncodified) is amended to read as
17 follows:

18 (1) Beginning July 1, 2010, the office of financial management,

1 with assistance and support from the office of the superintendent of
2 public instruction, shall convene a technical working group to develop
3 options for a new system of supplemental school funding through local
4 school levies and local effort assistance.

5 (2) The working group shall consider the impact on overall school
6 district revenues of the new basic education funding system established
7 under this act and shall recommend a phase-in plan that ensures that no
8 school district suffers a decrease in funding from one school year to
9 the next due to implementation of the new system of supplemental
10 funding.

11 (3)(a) The working group shall also examine how local levy funds
12 are used for supplemental employee-related costs beyond state funding
13 allocations including, but not limited to, supplemental contracts,
14 enhanced employee basic benefits, professional development days,
15 release time, and other employee benefits such as tuition reimbursement
16 or additional leave. The purpose of the examination is not only to
17 improve overall understanding of how local levy funds are currently
18 used, but also to explore the possible impact of such uses on class
19 size, staffing levels, instructional time for students, availability of
20 cocurricular programs, levels of student support services, and the use
21 of substitute teachers. The working group shall use the information
22 and insight gained through the examination as it develops options for
23 a new system of supplemental funding, including providing
24 recommendations for appropriate uses of levy funds for employee-related
25 costs within that system.

26 (b) The working group shall make a preliminary report to the
27 quality education council and the legislature containing its analysis,
28 findings, and recommendations under this subsection (3) by November 15,
29 2010.

30 (4) The working group shall be composed of representatives from the
31 department of revenue, the legislative evaluation and accountability
32 program committee, school district and educational service district
33 financial managers, and representatives of the Washington association
34 of school business officers, the Washington education association, the
35 Washington association of school administrators, the association of
36 Washington school principals, the Washington state school directors'
37 association, the public school employees of Washington, and other
38 interested stakeholders with expertise in education finance. The

1 working group may convene advisory subgroups on specific topics as
2 necessary to assure participation and input from a broad array of
3 diverse stakeholders.

4 ~~((+4))~~ (5) The local funding working group shall be monitored and
5 overseen by the legislature and by the quality education council
6 created in ~~((section 114 of this act))~~ RCW 28A.290.010. The working
7 group shall submit a final report to the legislature by December 1,
8 2011.

9 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.290.010 and 2009 c 548 s 114 are each amended to
10 read as follows:

11 (1) The quality education council is created to recommend and
12 inform the ongoing implementation by the legislature of an evolving
13 program of basic education and the financing necessary to support such
14 program. The council shall develop strategic recommendations on the
15 program of basic education for the common schools. The council shall
16 take into consideration the capacity report produced under RCW
17 28A.300.172 and the availability of data and progress of implementing
18 the data systems required under RCW 28A.655.210. Any recommendations
19 for modifications to the program of basic education shall be based on
20 evidence that the programs effectively support student learning. The
21 council shall update the statewide strategic recommendations every four
22 years. The recommendations of the council are intended to:

23 (a) Inform future educational policy and funding decisions of the
24 legislature and governor;

25 (b) Identify measurable goals and priorities for the educational
26 system in Washington state for a ten-year time period, including the
27 goals of basic education and ongoing strategies for coordinating
28 statewide efforts to eliminate the achievement gap and reduce student
29 dropout rates; and

30 (c) Enable the state of Washington to continue to implement an
31 evolving program of basic education.

32 (2) The council may request updates and progress reports from the
33 office of the superintendent of public instruction, the state board of
34 education, the professional educator standards board, and the
35 department of early learning on the work of the agencies as well as
36 educational working groups established by the legislature.

1 (3) The chair of the council shall be selected from the
2 councilmembers. The council shall be composed of the following
3 members:

4 (a) Four members of the house of representatives, with two members
5 representing each of the major caucuses and appointed by the speaker of
6 the house of representatives;

7 (b) Four members of the senate, with two members representing each
8 of the major caucuses and appointed by the president of the senate; and

9 (c) One representative each from the office of the governor, office
10 of the superintendent of public instruction, state board of education,
11 professional educator standards board, and department of early
12 learning.

13 (4) In the 2009 fiscal year, the council shall meet as often as
14 necessary as determined by the chair. In subsequent years, the council
15 shall meet no more than four times a year.

16 (5)(a) The council shall submit an initial report to the governor
17 and the legislature by January 1, 2010, detailing its recommendations,
18 including recommendations for resolving issues or decisions requiring
19 legislative action during the 2010 legislative session, and
20 recommendations for any funding necessary to continue development and
21 implementation of chapter 548, Laws of 2009.

22 (b) The initial report shall, at a minimum, include:

23 (i) Consideration of how to establish a statewide beginning teacher
24 mentoring and support system;

25 (ii) Recommendations for a program of early learning for at-risk
26 children;

27 (iii) A recommended schedule for the concurrent phase-in of the
28 changes to the instructional program of basic education and the
29 implementation of the funding formulas and allocations to support the
30 new instructional program of basic education as established under
31 chapter 548, Laws of 2009. The phase-in schedule shall have full
32 implementation completed by September 1, 2018; and

33 (iv) A recommended schedule for phased-in implementation of the new
34 distribution formula for allocating state funds to school districts for
35 the transportation of students to and from school, with phase-in
36 beginning no later than September 1, 2013.

37 (6) The council shall include in its 2010 workplan an examination
38 of levy-funded employee-related costs, using the information and

1 analysis gathered by the local finance working group in its examination
2 of this topic and any other information requested by the council. The
3 council shall submit a report to the legislature by January 1, 2011,
4 containing conclusions and recommendations for appropriate uses of levy
5 funds for employee-related costs within a revised system of
6 supplemental local finance for public schools.

7 (7) The council shall be staffed by the office of the
8 superintendent of public instruction and the office of financial
9 management. Additional staff support shall be provided by the state
10 entities with representatives on the committee. Senate committee
11 services and the house of representatives office of program research
12 may provide additional staff support.

13 ~~((7))~~ (8) Legislative members of the council shall serve without
14 additional compensation but may be reimbursed for travel expenses in
15 accordance with RCW 44.04.120 while attending sessions of the council
16 or on official business authorized by the council. Nonlegislative
17 members of the council may be reimbursed for travel expenses in
18 accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

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