

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6040

As of January 17, 2012

Title: An act relating to school construction assistance rules.

Brief Description: Regarding school construction assistance rules.

Sponsors: Senators McAuliffe, King, Delvin, Rolfes, Hobbs, Shin and Chase.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Early Learning & K-12 Education: 1/16/12.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

Staff: Susan Mielke (786-7422)

Background: School district construction projects are eligible for state assistance based on several factors, including when the construction is needed for instructional space based on un-housed students. The calculation compares the district's current inventory of instructional space to its projected enrollment. Therefore, if the full square footage of instructional space in a shared facility was included in the calculation then it would not accurately represent the un-housed need. The current practice of the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is to not include the entire square footage of a shared facility in the calculation, although this is not specifically detailed in either statute or OSPI rule.

Summary of Bill: OSPI must adopt rules to ensure that a host school district of a shared or co-located facility is not penalized when calculating state school construction assistance.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: The Tri-cities has three school districts cooperating on a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math school: Delta High School. It is physically located in the Richland school district but the other two districts send students

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to the school. It is amazing because the community and business are all involved. There is a concern that the entire footprint of the building will count against Richland when they seek state assistance for any school construction project.

OTHER: OSPI has complicated formulas for when and how the state provides funding for a school construction project. Because of the complications we are concerned there may be unintended consequences from this bill that would cause the district to not receive state assistance for a school construction project. We would suggest a study to come back to you with recommendations on how to address these shared buildings.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator McAuliffe, prime sponsor.

OTHER: Gordon Beck, OSPI.