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HOUSE BILL 2479

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State of Washington                      62nd Legislature                      2012 Regular Session

By Representatives Wilcox, Johnson, Haler, Alexander, and Anderson

Read first time 01/16/12. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to waivers from the one hundred eighty-day school  
2 year requirement; amending RCW 28A.305.141; and providing an expiration  
3 date.

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

5            **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.305.141 and 2009 c 543 s 2 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7            (1) In addition to waivers authorized under RCW 28A.305.140 and  
8 28A.655.180, the state board of education may grant waivers from the  
9 requirement for a one hundred eighty-day school year under RCW  
10 28A.150.220 ((and ~~28A.150.250~~)) to school districts that propose to  
11 operate one or more schools on a flexible calendar for purposes of  
12 economy and efficiency as provided in this section. The requirement  
13 under RCW 28A.150.220 that school districts offer an annual average  
14 instructional hour offering of at least one thousand hours shall not be  
15 waived.

16            (2) A school district seeking a waiver under this section must  
17 submit an application that includes:

18            (a) A proposed calendar for the school day and school year that  
19 demonstrates how the instructional hour requirement will be maintained;

1 (b) An explanation and estimate of the economies and efficiencies  
2 to be gained from compressing the instructional hours into fewer than  
3 one hundred eighty days;

4 (c) An explanation of how monetary savings from the proposal will  
5 be redirected to support student learning;

6 (d) A summary of comments received at one or more public hearings  
7 on the proposal and how concerns will be addressed;

8 (e) An explanation of the impact on students who rely upon free and  
9 reduced-price school child nutrition services and the impact on the  
10 ability of the child nutrition program to operate an economically  
11 independent program;

12 (f) An explanation of the impact on the ability to recruit and  
13 retain employees in education support positions;

14 (g) An explanation of the impact on students whose parents work  
15 during the missed school day; and

16 (h) Other information that the state board of education may request  
17 to assure that the proposed flexible calendar will not adversely affect  
18 student learning.

19 (3) The state board of education shall adopt criteria to evaluate  
20 waiver requests. No more than ~~((five))~~ twenty-five districts may be  
21 granted waivers. Waivers may be granted for up to three years. After  
22 each school year, the state board of education shall analyze empirical  
23 evidence to determine whether the reduction is affecting student  
24 learning. If the state board of education determines that student  
25 learning is adversely affected, the school district shall discontinue  
26 the flexible calendar as soon as possible but not later than the  
27 beginning of the next school year after the determination has been  
28 made. ~~((All waivers expire August 31, 2014.))~~

29 (a) Two of the five waivers granted under this subsection shall be  
30 granted to school districts with student populations of less than one  
31 hundred fifty students.

32 (b) Three of the five waivers granted under this subsection shall  
33 be granted to school districts with student populations of between one  
34 hundred fifty-one and five hundred students.

35 (c) Beginning with the 2012-13 school year, twenty of the waivers  
36 granted under this subsection (3) shall be granted to school districts  
37 with student populations of between five hundred one students and two  
38 thousand two hundred students.

1 (4) The state board of education shall examine the waivers granted  
2 under subsection (3)(a) and (b) of this section and make a  
3 recommendation to the education committees of the legislature by  
4 December 15, 2013, regarding whether the waiver program should be  
5 continued, modified, or allowed to terminate. This recommendation  
6 should focus on whether the program resulted in improved student  
7 learning as demonstrated by empirical evidence. Such evidence  
8 includes, but is not limited to: Improved scores on the ((Washington))  
9 statewide student assessment ((of student learning)), results of the  
10 dynamic indicators of basic early literacy skills or another valid and  
11 reliable literary assessment, student grades, and attendance.

12 (5)(a) The waivers in subsection (3)(a) and (b) of this section  
13 expire August 31, 2014.

14 (b) The waivers in subsection (3)(c) of this section expire August  
15 31, 2019.

16 (6) This section expires August 31, ((2014)) 2019.

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