

---

HOUSE BILL 2780

---

State of Washington                      62nd Legislature                      2012 Regular Session

By Representatives Dammeier, Dahlquist, and Fagan

Read first time 02/09/12. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1            AN ACT Relating to prioritizing expenditures for K-12 education  
2 within the state appropriations process; reenacting and amending RCW  
3 28A.150.380; adding new sections to chapter 44.04 RCW; and declaring an  
4 emergency.

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 state must amply  
12 provide for the education of all Washington children as the state's  
13 first and highest priority before any other state programs or  
14 operations. For these reasons, it is the intent of the legislature to  
15 require that all appropriations for K-12 basic education, together with  
16 appropriations for other K-12 education programs, be enacted into law  
17 before the legislature takes executive action on other omnibus  
18 appropriations legislation.

1           **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.150.380 and 2009 c 548 s 110 and 2009 c 479 s 16  
2 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

3           (1) The state legislature shall, at each regular session in an odd-  
4 numbered year, appropriate for the current use of the common schools  
5 such amounts as needed for state support to school districts during the  
6 ensuing biennium for the program of basic education under RCW  
7 28A.150.200.

8           (2) In addition to those state funds provided to school districts  
9 for basic education, the legislature may appropriate funds to be  
10 distributed to school districts for other factors and for other special  
11 programs to enhance or enrich the program of basic education.

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

16           (4) As of the effective date of this section, all appropriations  
17 for the purposes of this section and other K-12 education purposes,  
18 including any adjustments to biennial operating appropriations made in  
19 a supplemental operating appropriations act, must be made in  
20 legislation that is separate from the omnibus operating appropriations  
21 act. Such appropriations must be enacted into law before it is in  
22 order for either house of the legislature to take executive action on  
23 omnibus operating appropriations legislation.

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

26           Beginning the effective date of this section, appropriations for  
27 the purposes of RCW 28A.150.380 and other K-12 education purposes must  
28 be enacted into law before it is in order for either house of the  
29 legislature to take executive action on omnibus operating or  
30 transportation appropriations legislation.

31           The house of representatives and senate, jointly or separately, may  
32 adopt rules or resolutions to implement their respective  
33 responsibilities under this section.

34           NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
35 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the

1 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
2 immediately.

--- END ---