
SENATE BILL 5511

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Rockefeller, Ranker, McAuliffe, and Hobbs

Read first time 01/27/11. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing a limited exemption from school day
2 and hour requirements in order to mitigate state funding reductions;
3 creating a new section; providing an expiration date; and declaring an
4 emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that mid-
7 year, retroactive reductions in state funding create administrative
8 hardship for school districts. The legislature further recognizes that
9 during difficult economic times, restructuring the school day or year
10 can create local savings that may help mitigate the impacts of
11 unforeseen state funding reductions, including savings in utilities,
12 transportation, and certain personnel costs. The legislature intends
13 to temporarily broaden the authority of the superintendent of public
14 instruction to provide districts increased flexibility to manage within
15 existing resources, while still offering quality educational programs.

16 (2) During the 2010-11 school year, the superintendent of public
17 instruction may provide an exemption from the requirements of RCW
18 28A.150.290(2), without adopting rules, if there are unforeseen,
19 retroactive mid-school year reductions in state funding for school

1 districts. The superintendent may provide an exemption for up to three
2 school days, or the hourly equivalent. School districts must make
3 application for this exemption, and must include a resolution from the
4 local school board of directors in support of the request. The
5 superintendent shall establish an exemption application and review
6 process that is expedited and recognizes the unique administrative
7 challenges facing school districts in the 2010-11 school year. The
8 superintendent shall review exemption requests on the basis of district
9 fund balance and administrative capacity to accommodate the proposed
10 schedule or calendar changes, while preserving educational program
11 quality.

12 (3) This section expires September 1, 2011.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate
14 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
15 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
16 immediately.

--- END ---