
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1492

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2014 Regular Session

By House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Klippert, McCoy, Haler, Pettigrew, Moscoso, Hayes, Hargrove, Buys, and Hawkins)

READ FIRST TIME 01/31/14.

1 AN ACT Relating to waivers from school year requirements for
2 purposes of economy and efficiency; amending RCW 28A.305.141; and
3 providing an expiration 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 with fewer than two
11 thousand students that propose to operate one or more schools on a
12 flexible calendar for purposes of economy and efficiency as provided in
13 this section. The requirement under RCW 28A.150.220 that school
14 districts offer (~~an annual average instructional hour offering of at~~
15 ~~least one thousand hours~~) minimum instructional hour offerings shall
16 not be waived.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (3) The state board of education shall adopt criteria to evaluate
23 waiver requests. (~~No more than five districts may be granted~~
24 ~~waivers.~~) Waivers may be granted for up to three years. After each
25 school year, the state board of education shall analyze empirical
26 evidence to determine whether the reduction is affecting student
27 learning. If the state board of education determines that student
28 learning is adversely affected, the school district shall discontinue
29 the flexible calendar as soon as possible but not later than the
30 beginning of the next school year after the determination has been
31 made. All waivers expire August 31, ((2014)) 2017.

32 (~~(a) Two of the five waivers granted under this subsection shall~~
33 ~~be granted to school districts with student populations of less than~~
34 ~~one hundred fifty students.~~

35 (~~b) Three of the five waivers granted under this subsection shall~~
36 ~~be granted to school districts with student populations of between one~~
37 ~~hundred fifty one and five hundred students.~~

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

11 ~~(5))~~ (4) This section expires August 31, ~~((2014))~~ 2017.

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