

---

SENATE BILL 6340

---

State of Washington                      63rd Legislature                      2014 Regular Session

By Senator Hill; by request of Office of Financial Management

Read first time 01/22/14. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1            AN ACT Relating to aligning student transportation formulas with  
2 2013 session laws; amending RCW 28A.160.192; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 28A.715 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

5            **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.160.192 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 27 s 3 are each  
6 amended to read as follows:

7            (1) (~~The superintendent of public instruction shall phase in the~~  
8 ~~implementation of~~) The distribution formula under this chapter for  
9 allocating state funds to school districts for the transportation of  
10 students to and from school(~~. The phase in shall begin no later than~~  
11 ~~the 2011-2013 biennium and be fully implemented by the 2013-2015~~  
12 ~~biennium.~~) must:

13            (a) (~~The formula must~~) Be developed and revised on an ongoing  
14 basis using the major cost factors in student transportation, including  
15 basic and special student loads, school district land area, average  
16 distance to school, roadway miles, and number of locations served.  
17 Factors must include all those site characteristics that are  
18 statistically significant after analysis of the data required by the  
19 revised reporting process.

1 (b) (~~The formula must~~) Allocate funds to school districts based  
2 on the average predicted costs of transporting students to and from  
3 school, using a regression analysis. Only factors that are  
4 statistically significant shall be used in the regression analysis.  
5 Employee compensation costs included in the allowable transportation  
6 expenditures used for the purpose of establishing each (~~school~~  
7 ~~district's independent~~) variable in the regression analysis shall be  
8 limited to the base salary or hourly wage rates, fringe benefit rates,  
9 and (~~applicable health care~~) the insurance benefit allocation  
10 rate(~~s~~) provided in the omnibus appropriations act.

11 (2) (~~During the phase-in period,~~) Funding provided to school  
12 districts for student transportation operations shall be distributed on  
13 the following basis:

14 (a) Annually, each school district shall receive the lesser of the  
15 (~~previous school year's pupil transportation operations allocation~~)  
16 expected cost as predicted by the regression analysis under subsection  
17 (1)(b) of this section, or the total of allowable pupil transportation  
18 expenditures identified on the previous school year's final expenditure  
19 report to the state plus district indirect expenses using the federal  
20 restricted indirect rate as calculated in the district annual financial  
21 report;

22 (b) Annually, the amount identified in (a) of this subsection shall  
23 be adjusted for any budgeted (~~increases~~) changes provided in the  
24 omnibus appropriations act for salaries (~~or~~), fringe benefits, and  
25 the insurance benefit allocation rate; and

26 (c) (~~Annually, any funds appropriated by the legislature in excess~~  
27 ~~of the maintenance level funding amount for student transportation~~  
28 ~~shall be distributed among school districts on a prorated basis using~~  
29 ~~the difference between the amount identified in (a) adjusted by (b) of~~  
30 ~~this subsection and the amount determined under the formula in RCW~~  
31 ~~28A.160.180; and~~

32 (~~d~~) Allocations provided to recognize the cost of depreciation to  
33 districts contracting with private carriers for student transportation  
34 shall be deducted from the allowable transportation expenditures in (a)  
35 of this subsection.

36 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 28A.715  
37 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) To claim funds under this section, a school that is the subject  
2 of a state-tribal education compact must comply with RCW 28A.160.115,  
3 28A.160.170, 28A.160.210, and 46.61.380.

4 (2) During the initial year of operation, a school that is the  
5 subject of a state-tribal education compact may claim transportation  
6 operating funds under this subsection only for transportation of  
7 eligible students to and from school as defined in RCW 28A.160.160.  
8 The school may claim an allocation per eligible student as the prior  
9 year's per student allocation to a school district of similar geography  
10 and ridership, less any federal funds provided to the school  
11 specifically for the purpose of transporting students to and from  
12 school on a daily basis.

13 (3) After the initial year of operation, the superintendent of  
14 public instruction shall allocate transportation operating funds  
15 consistent with the methodology provided under RCW 28A.160.150 through  
16 28A.160.192, less any federal funds provided to the school specifically  
17 for the purpose of transporting students to and from school on a daily  
18 basis.

19 (4) For the purpose of administering RCW 28A.160.150 through  
20 28A.160.192, the superintendent of public instruction shall consider  
21 tribal school districts to be school districts, including any school  
22 that is the subject of a state-tribal education compact approved under  
23 this chapter, except that the school's approved transportation service  
24 area must be used in lieu of school district land area.

25 (5) A school that is the subject of a state-tribal education  
26 compact may claim bus depreciation funds based on the payment schedule  
27 provided under RCW 28A.160.200(3). The bus depreciation funds must go  
28 into a separate transportation vehicle fund to be used only for the  
29 purchase of pupil transportation vehicles.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect September 1, 2014.

--- END ---