

SB 6291 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on Education

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that there have
4 been significant legislative efforts dedicated to providing
5 opportunities for the academic acceleration of students. An example
6 of these efforts is the enactment of legislation encouraging school
7 districts to adopt policies that automatically enroll students in the
8 most rigorous advanced courses available, with the objective being
9 that students will eventually enroll in dual credit courses.

10 (2) However, the legislature recognizes that, contrary to
11 acceleration preferences, students may have disincentives for taking
12 more rigorous coursework, including honors courses, AP courses,
13 international baccalaureate courses, and dual credit courses, for
14 fear of diminishing their ability to enroll in the postsecondary
15 school of their choice. The legislature finds that one aspect of this
16 disincentive may be that districts are not authorized to use a
17 weighted grade point average system that appropriately recognizes
18 student achievement in accelerated courses, or a standardized high
19 school transcript that would reflect this system.

20 (3) The legislature therefore intends to convene a task force to
21 examine the policy considerations of authorizing school districts to
22 use a weighted grade point average system and a modified high school
23 transcript that would accompany the weighted system.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1)(a) A legislative task force on
25 weighted grade point average systems is established, with members as
26 provided in this subsection.

27 (i) The president of the senate shall appoint one member from
28 each of the two largest caucuses of the senate. Members appointed
29 under this subsection (1)(a)(i) must be from different political
30 parties.

1 (ii) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint
2 one member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of
3 representatives.

4 (iii) The president of the senate and the speaker of the house of
5 representatives shall jointly appoint one nonvoting member from each
6 of the following organizations:

- 7 (A) The state board of education;
- 8 (B) The Washington state school directors' association;
- 9 (C) The state board for community and technical colleges;
- 10 (D) The workforce training and education coordinating board;
- 11 (E) The Washington student achievement council;
- 12 (F) The Washington association of school administrators;
- 13 (G) The association of Washington school principals;
- 14 (H) The Washington state council of presidents; and
- 15 (I) The independent colleges of Washington.

16 (iv) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
17 cooperate with the task force and maintain a liaison representative,
18 who shall be a nonvoting member.

19 (b) The task force shall choose its cochairs from among its
20 legislative membership. The appointee from the largest caucus of the
21 house of representatives shall, on or before July 15, 2016, convene
22 the initial meeting of the task force.

23 (2) The task force shall review the following issues:

24 (a) The implementation of weighted grade point average systems in
25 other states;

26 (b) How weighted grade point average systems have affected
27 college admissions practices and considerations in other states, and
28 how such systems might affect college admissions practices and
29 considerations in Washington, both for in-state and out-of-state
30 applicants;

31 (c) The implementation of weighted grade point average systems,
32 for internal purposes only, by Washington high schools;

33 (d) Technical considerations associated with the implementation
34 of a weighted grade point average system in Washington, including:

35 (i) Requirements that may need to be adopted by rule;

36 (ii) The development of appropriate technical guidance for school
37 districts;

38 (iii) The appropriate level of standardization for a weighted
39 grade point average system;

1 (iv) A determination of what criteria to apply, and what level of
2 local discretion to permit, when determining whether a course
3 qualifies as an accelerated course under a weighted grade point
4 average system;

5 (e) How dual credit programs should be addressed in a weighted
6 grade point average system;

7 (f) If recommended, whether the implementation of a weighted
8 grade point average system in Washington should be optional or
9 mandatory;

10 (g) The development of a timeline for the implementation of a
11 weighted grade point average system in Washington, including the
12 development of a multiphase pilot program in school districts located
13 east and west of the crest of the Cascade mountains; and

14 (h) Other related issues the task force deems appropriate.

15 (3) Staff support for the task force must be provided by senate
16 committee services and the house of representatives office of program
17 research.

18 (4) Legislative members of the task force are reimbursed for
19 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
20 members are not entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses if they
21 are elected officials or are participating on behalf of an employer,
22 governmental entity, or other organization. Any reimbursement for
23 other nonlegislative members is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.

24 (5) The expenses of the task force must be paid jointly by the
25 senate and the house of representatives. Task force expenditures are
26 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee
27 and the house of representatives executive rules committee, or their
28 successor committees.

29 (6) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations
30 to the governor, the superintendent of public instruction, and, in
31 accordance with RCW 43.01.036, the appropriate education committees
32 of the house of representatives and the senate. Preliminary
33 recommendations of the task force must be provided to recipients in
34 accordance with this subsection by September 1, 2016, with final
35 recommendations, which may include minority recommendations,
36 submitted by December 1, 2016.

37 (7) This section expires August 1, 2017."

38 Correct the title.

EFFECT: (1) Removes all provisions of the underlying bill.

(2) Establishes a 14-member legislative task force on weighted grade point average systems with two Representatives, two Senators, and 10 nonvoting members representing specific organizations.

(3) Delineates issues related to weighted grade point average systems for the task force to review.

(4) Specifies that first meeting of the task force must be on or before July 15, 2016.

(5) Specifies that staff support for the task force must be provided by Senate Committee Services and the Office of Program Research of the House of Representatives.

(6) Directs the task force to produce preliminary recommendations by September 1, 2016, and final recommendations by December 1, 2016.

(7) Includes intent language.

(8) Expires the task force August 1, 2017.

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