

SSB 5453 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Capital Budget

NOT CONSIDERED 01/05/2018

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.525
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) School construction assistance program grants for small,
6 rural districts must be determined in accordance with this section.

7 (2) Eligibility. Small, rural district modernization grants are
8 for school districts with enrollments that are less than or equal to
9 one thousand students. For school districts that, because of low
10 assessed property values or high indebtedness, are not eligible for
11 school construction assistance program modernization grants, the
12 office of the superintendent of public instruction shall recommend
13 measures for those school districts to become eligible in the small,
14 rural district school construction assistance program. Districts with
15 incomplete information in the inventory and condition of schools data
16 system are not eligible to apply.

17 (3) Coordination with the school construction assistance program
18 (SCAP).

19 (a) The full administrative and procedural process of SCAP
20 funding may be streamlined by the office of the superintendent of
21 public instruction in order to coordinate eligible SCAP funding with
22 the small, rural district modernization grants. Such coordination
23 must ensure that total state funding from both grants does not exceed
24 total project costs minus available local resources.

25 (b) Projects seeking small, rural district modernization grants
26 must meet the requirements for a SCAP grant except for the following:

27 (i) The estimated cost of the project may be less than forty
28 percent of the estimated replacement value of the facility, and

29 (ii) Local funding assistance percentage requirements of the SCAP
30 do not apply. However, available district resources are considered in
31 prioritizing small rural school grants.

32 (4) Prioritized grants and advisory committee.

1 (a) The small, rural district school modernization program must
2 propose a list of prioritized grants by September 1st of even-
3 numbered years. The superintendent of public instruction must appoint
4 an advisory committee to prioritize applications for small, rural
5 school districts. Committee members must have experience in
6 financing, managing, repairing, and improving school facilities in
7 small, rural districts but must not be involved in a small, rural
8 modernization program request for the biennium under consideration.
9 The office of the superintendent of public instruction must provide
10 administrative and staff support to the committee. The committee must
11 review and rank applications in the three-step process in this
12 subsection (4).

13 (b) Step one must involve a simplified application from
14 interested districts with a brief statement of the school condition,
15 its deficiencies, student enrollment, student achievement measures,
16 and financial limitations of the district. The advisory committee
17 created in (a) of this subsection must identify a preliminary list of
18 school districts with the most serious building deficiencies, the
19 most limited financial capacity, and the greatest student opportunity
20 gaps given the condition of school facilities.

21 (c) After identifying the list of school districts under (b) of
22 this subsection, the advisory committee created in (a) of this
23 subsection and the office of superintendent of public instruction
24 must offer technical assistance to the districts on the list to
25 develop affordable and effective proposals to resolve the most
26 serious building deficiencies.

27 (d) After offering technical assistance under (c) of this
28 subsection, the advisory committee created in (a) of this subsection
29 must evaluate final applications from the school districts on the
30 first list interested in pursuing a grant. The advisory committee
31 must submit a prioritized list of grants to the superintendent of
32 public instruction and the governor. The list must prioritize
33 applications to achieve the greatest improvement of school
34 facilities, in the districts with the most limited financial
35 capacity, for projects that are likely to improve student health,
36 safety, and academic performance for the largest number of students
37 for the amount of state grant support. The advisory committee must
38 develop specific criteria to achieve the prioritization. The
39 submitted prioritized list must describe the project, the proposed
40 state funding level, and the estimated total project cost including

1 other funding and in-kind resources. The list must also indicate
2 student achievement measures that will be used to evaluate the
3 benefits of the project. The superintendent of public instruction and
4 the governor may determine the level of funding in their omnibus
5 capital appropriations act requests to support small, rural school
6 district grants, but their funding requests must follow the
7 prioritized list prepared by the advisory committee unless new
8 information determines that a specific project is no longer viable as
9 proposed.

10 (5) Disbursement of grant funds and reporting requirements. The
11 office of the superintendent of public instruction must execute a
12 contract with school districts receiving small, rural school
13 modernization grants. The contract must not be executed until the
14 district has identified available local and other resources
15 sufficient to complete the approved project considering the amount of
16 the state grant. The contract must include provisions for disbursing
17 state funds for eligible project costs incurred. When a district has
18 used local funds for costs eligible for state fund reimbursement
19 under a small, rural modernization grant, if the state funds are not
20 applied to eligible project costs, use of the state funds must comply
21 with the requirements of the applicable source of local funds. The
22 contract must specify reporting requirements from the district, which
23 must include updating all pertinent information in the inventory and
24 condition of schools system and submitting a final project report as
25 specified by the office of the superintendent of public instruction
26 in consultation with the school facilities citizens advisory
27 committee specified in RCW 28A.525.025."

28 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Allows the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to streamline processes and procedures for School Construction Assistance Program funding to coordinate small, rural district modernization grants with SCAP eligible projects. Requires small, rural district grant recipients to meet the requirements of the SCAP except for estimated cost thresholds and local funding assistance percentages.

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