
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1886

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Harris, Santos, and Pollet)

READ FIRST TIME 02/17/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to the responsibilities of the office of the
2 superintendent of public instruction and the state board of
3 education; creating new sections; providing an expiration date; and
4 declaring an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that it is
7 charged by the state Constitution, and entrusted by the voters, to be
8 the principal public policy setting body of Washington state. The
9 legislature recognizes also that a critical component of its policy
10 setting obligations centers upon establishing and amending well-
11 considered and appropriate governance provisions for the K-12
12 education system.

13 (2) The legislature finds that the K-12 education system is a
14 constantly evolving barometer of change that reflects the growth,
15 complexity, and diversity of the state. While the state's K-12
16 education system can be traced to Washington's first territorial
17 legislature, properly responding to the needs and expectations of a
18 system that is devoted to providing a high quality education to more
19 than one million students requires continual evaluations and
20 refinements.

1 (3) The legislature recognizes that the challenges of setting
2 state education policy are compounded by two important
3 considerations: (a) An evolving federal role in education issues that
4 began in the 1960s and has changed the interplay between states and
5 the federal government by establishing specific responsibilities for
6 the principal state education agency in each state; and (b) the
7 existence of two Washington state educational agencies with
8 territorial roots, the office of the superintendent of public
9 instruction and the state board of education. Furthermore, the
10 legislature recognizes that the division of responsibilities between
11 these state agencies is multifaceted, as the elected superintendents
12 of public instruction served, from 1897 until recently, as the ex-
13 officio presidents of the state board of education.

14 (4) The legislature, therefore, intends to promote the improved
15 functioning of the K-12 education system by acting upon its public
16 policy setting authority to examine specific K-12 governance and
17 responsibilities considerations. To accomplish this objective, the
18 legislature intends to convene a task force to develop
19 recommendations regarding the appropriate division of duties between
20 the superintendent of public instruction and the state board of
21 education.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1)(a) The legislative task force on K-12
23 governance and responsibilities is established, with members as
24 provided in this subsection.

25 (i) The president of the senate shall appoint two task force
26 members: The chair and ranking minority member of the senate early
27 learning and K-12 education committee.

28 (ii) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint
29 two task force members: The chair and ranking minority member of the
30 house of representatives education committee.

31 (iii) The task force shall also consist of:

32 (A) The governor or the governor's designee;

33 (B) The superintendent of public instruction or the
34 superintendent's designee;

35 (C) The chair of the state board of education;

36 (D) The president of the Washington state school directors'
37 association; and

38 (E) The chair of the student achievement council.

1 (b) The task force shall choose its cochairs from among its
2 legislative membership. The chair of the house of representatives
3 education committee shall convene the initial meeting of the task
4 force on or before June 1, 2017.

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

6 (a) Legislation introduced in 2017 relating to the
7 responsibilities of the superintendent of public instruction and the
8 state board of education;

9 (b) The constitutional and statutory provisions establishing the
10 governance structure and associated responsibilities in the K-12
11 system;

12 (c) Options for the division of roles and responsibilities
13 between the office of the superintendent of public instruction and
14 the state board of education;

15 (d) Past and present provisions governing the superintendent of
16 public instruction and the superintendent's office, including
17 authorities and duties assigned and modified by the legislature;

18 (e) Past and present provisions governing the state board of
19 education, including provisions prescribing its authorities, duties,
20 composition, and membership qualifications; and

21 (f) Considerations of governance and responsibility provisions
22 for other public partner agencies in the K-12 system.

23 (3) Staff support for the task force must be provided by the
24 senate committee services and the house of representatives office of
25 program research, with additional assistance, if requested by the
26 task force, provided by the office of the superintendent of public
27 instruction and the state board of education.

28 (4) Legislative members of the task force are reimbursed for
29 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
30 members are not entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses if they
31 are elected officials or are participating on behalf of an employer,
32 governmental entity, or other organization. Any reimbursement for
33 other nonlegislative members is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.

34 (5) The expenses of the task force must be paid jointly by the
35 senate and the house of representatives. Task force expenditures are
36 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee
37 and the house of representatives executive rules committee, or their
38 successor committees.

39 (6) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations,
40 including recommendations regarding the appropriate roles and

1 responsibilities of the superintendent of public instruction and the
2 state board of education in the K-12 system, to the education
3 committees of the house of representatives and the senate by November
4 15, 2017.

5 (7) This section expires January 31, 2018.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
7 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
8 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
9 effect immediately.

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