
SENATE BILL 6537

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Senators Braun, Short, and Wilson

Read first time 01/23/18. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to eliminating the reduction in state basic
2 education funding that occurs in counties with federal forestlands;
3 amending RCW 28A.150.250 and 28A.520.020; creating a new section; and
4 providing an effective date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** School districts in counties with federal
7 forests are at a disadvantage in terms of generating local revenue
8 due to economic and private development opportunities that are
9 forgone on these lands. The legislature intends to no longer reduce
10 state basic education funding to school districts in counties with
11 federal forest lands. The money school districts receive as a result
12 of federal forest revenue payments should be considered as grants, or
13 compensation, to inhabitants of local areas for impacts associated
14 with the presence of federal lands. These revenues should be
15 delivered to school districts as a supplement to basic education
16 allocations in addition to the state's basic education apportionment.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.150.250 and 2009 c 548 s 105 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

19 (1) From those funds made available by the legislature for the
20 current use of the common schools, the superintendent of public

1 instruction shall distribute annually as provided in RCW 28A.510.250
2 to each school district of the state operating a basic education
3 instructional program approved by the state board of education an
4 amount based on the formulas provided in RCW 28A.150.260,
5 28A.150.390, and 28A.150.392 which, when combined with an appropriate
6 portion of such locally available revenues(~~(, other than receipts~~
7 ~~from federal forest revenues distributed to school districts pursuant~~
8 ~~to RCW 28A.520.010 and 28A.520.020,)) as the superintendent of public
9 instruction may deem appropriate for consideration in computing state
10 equalization support, excluding excess property tax levies, will
11 constitute a basic education allocation in dollars for each annual
12 average full-time equivalent student enrolled.~~

13 (2) The instructional program of basic education shall be
14 considered to be fully funded by those amounts of dollars
15 appropriated by the legislature pursuant to RCW 28A.150.260,
16 28A.150.390, and 28A.150.392 to fund those program requirements
17 identified in RCW 28A.150.220 in accordance with the formula provided
18 in RCW 28A.150.260 and those amounts of dollars appropriated by the
19 legislature to fund the salary requirements of RCW 28A.150.410.

20 (3) If a school district's basic education program fails to meet
21 the basic education requirements enumerated in RCW 28A.150.260 and
22 28A.150.220, the state board of education shall require the
23 superintendent of public instruction to withhold state funds in whole
24 or in part for the basic education allocation until program
25 compliance is assured. However, the state board of education may
26 waive this requirement in the event of substantial lack of classroom
27 space.

28 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.520.020 and 2014 c 155 s 2 are each amended to
29 read as follows:

30 (1) There shall be a fund known as the federal forest revolving
31 account. The state treasurer, who shall be custodian of the revolving
32 account, shall deposit into the revolving account the funds for each
33 county received by the state in accordance with Title 16, section
34 500, United States Code. The state treasurer shall distribute these
35 moneys to the counties according to the determined proportional area.
36 The county legislative authority shall expend fifty percent of the
37 money for the benefit of the public roads and other public purposes
38 as authorized by federal statute or public schools of such county and
39 not otherwise. Disbursements by the counties of the remaining fifty

1 percent of the money shall be as authorized by the superintendent of
2 public instruction, or the superintendent's designee, and shall occur
3 in the manner provided in subsection (2) of this section.

4 (2) No later than thirty days following receipt of the funds from
5 the federal government, the superintendent of public instruction
6 shall apportion moneys distributed to counties for schools to public
7 school districts in the respective counties in proportion to the
8 number of resident full-time equivalent students enrolled in each
9 public school district to the number of resident full-time equivalent
10 students enrolled in public schools in the county. In apportioning
11 these funds, the superintendent of public instruction shall utilize
12 the October enrollment count.

13 (3) ~~((a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, if))~~ The
14 amount received by any public school district pursuant to subsection
15 (2) of this section ~~((is less than))~~ must not reduce the basic
16 education allocation to which the district would otherwise be
17 entitled ~~((, the superintendent of public instruction shall apportion
18 to the district, in the manner provided by RCW 28A.510.250, an amount
19 which shall be the difference between the amount received pursuant to
20 subsection (2) of this section and the basic education allocation to
21 which the district would otherwise be entitled.~~

22 ~~((b) If a school district has a poverty level of at least fifty-
23 seven percent, the superintendent may not offset that district's
24 basic education allocation by the amount of those federal forest
25 revenues, to the extent that such revenues do not exceed seventy
26 thousand dollars. The superintendent may offset the district's basic
27 education allocations by the portion of the federal forest revenues
28 that exceeds seventy thousand dollars. For purposes of this section,
29 poverty is measured by the percentage of students eligible for free
30 and reduced price lunch in the previous school year))~~.

31 (4) All federal forest funds shall be expended in accordance with
32 the requirements of Title 16, section 500, United States Code, as now
33 existing or hereafter amended.

34 (5) The definition of resident student for purposes of this
35 section shall be based on rules adopted by the superintendent of
36 public instruction, which shall consider and address the impact of
37 alternative learning experience students on federal forest funds
38 distribution.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act takes effect September 1, 2018.

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