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**HOUSE BILL 1031**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Reeves, Ryu, Ramel, Reed, Fosse, Pollet, Scott, and Stonier

Prefiled 12/11/24. Read first time 01/13/25. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to mitigating the impact of rising school  
2 facility temperatures resulting from climate change; amending RCW  
3 28A.150.290; adding a new section to chapter 28A.150 RCW; creating a  
4 new section; and providing an effective date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that even as the  
7 state pursues the cutting-edge climate policies necessary to mitigate  
8 the impacts of our past and near-term carbon intensive economy, the  
9 realities of climate change, including rising temperatures, are  
10 already upon us. Consequently, average and extreme temperatures in  
11 Washington state are likely to rise dramatically over the next  
12 century. The legislature further finds that because many of the  
13 state's school facilities lack adequate cooling systems, our teachers  
14 and students are likely to experience increasingly negative climate  
15 change-related impacts on their ability to teach and learn in the  
16 classroom. Therefore, the legislature intends to require the  
17 superintendent of public instruction to develop recommendations for  
18 indoor temperature standards, including a maximum temperature  
19 recommendation, for public school facilities. The legislature also  
20 intends to provide the superintendent of public instruction with

1 specific authority to develop rules related to school districts'  
2 cancellation of school days due to excessive heat.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.150  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) The superintendent of public instruction must appoint an  
6 advisory committee to develop recommendations for indoor temperature  
7 standards, including a maximum temperature recommendation, for public  
8 school facilities inhabited by students and employees no later than  
9 September 1, 2025.

10 (2) The advisory committee in this section must include  
11 representation from the following entities: (a) The department of  
12 health; (b) the environmental justice council under RCW 70A.02.110;  
13 (c) the state building code council under RCW 19.27.070; (d) the  
14 Washington association of maintenance and operation administrators;  
15 (e) the Washington education association; (f) the Washington state  
16 school directors' association; (g) the office of the superintendent  
17 of public instruction's technical advisory committee; and (h) a  
18 parent of a student enrolled in kindergarten through the 12th grade  
19 in a public school.

20 (3) The recommendations for indoor temperature standards must  
21 include consideration of the need to balance temperature control with  
22 the requirements of the state energy performance standards under  
23 chapter 19.27A RCW. The advisory committee shall report its  
24 recommendations and draft legislation to effect the recommended  
25 changes and an implementation timeline to the governor and the  
26 legislature no later than January 1, 2026.

27 (4) The superintendent of public instruction must develop cost  
28 estimates associated with the recommendations of the advisory  
29 committee pursuant to this section and report these cost estimates to  
30 the governor and the legislature no later than July 1, 2026.

31 (5) If legislation is enacted to implement indoor temperature  
32 standards pursuant to this section, the superintendent of public  
33 instruction may request legislative appropriations and the  
34 establishment of grant programs to assist public schools with the  
35 operational and capital costs of implementing these standards.

36 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.150.290 and 1992 c 141 s 504 are each amended to  
37 read as follows:

1 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall have the power  
2 and duty to make such rules and regulations as are necessary for the  
3 proper administration of this chapter and RCW 28A.160.150 through  
4 (~~28A.160.220~~) 28A.160.210, 28A.300.035, 28A.300.170, and  
5 28A.500.010 not inconsistent with the provisions thereof, and in  
6 addition to require such reports as may be necessary to carry out his  
7 or her duties under this chapter and RCW 28A.160.150 through  
8 (~~28A.160.220~~) 28A.160.210, 28A.300.035, 28A.300.170, and  
9 28A.500.010.

10 (2) (a) The superintendent of public instruction shall have the  
11 authority to make rules and regulations which establish the terms and  
12 conditions for allowing school districts to receive state basic  
13 education moneys as provided in RCW 28A.150.250 when said districts  
14 are unable to fulfill for one or more schools as officially scheduled  
15 the requirement of a full school year of one hundred eighty days or  
16 the annual average total instructional hour offering imposed by RCW  
17 28A.150.220 and 28A.150.260 due to one or more of the following  
18 conditions:

19 (~~(a)~~) (i) An unforeseen natural event(~~(r)~~) including, but not  
20 necessarily limited to, a fire, flood, explosion, storm, excessive  
21 heat, earthquake, epidemic, or volcanic eruption that has the direct  
22 or indirect effect of rendering one or more school district  
23 facilities unsafe, unhealthy, inaccessible, or inoperable; and

24 (~~(b)~~) (ii) An unforeseen mechanical failure or an unforeseen  
25 action or inaction by one or more persons, including negligence and  
26 threats, that (~~(i)~~) (A) is beyond the control of both a school  
27 district board of directors and its employees and (~~(ii)~~) (B) has  
28 the direct or indirect effect of rendering one or more school  
29 district facilities unsafe, unhealthy, inaccessible, or inoperable.  
30 Such actions, inactions or mechanical failures may include, but are  
31 not necessarily limited to, arson, vandalism, riots, insurrections,  
32 bomb threats, bombings, delays in the scheduled completion of  
33 construction projects, and the discontinuance or disruption of  
34 utilities such as heating, lighting and water: PROVIDED, That an  
35 unforeseen action or inaction shall not include any labor dispute  
36 between a school district board of directors and any employee of the  
37 school district.

38 (b) For the purposes of this subsection (2), "excessive heat"  
39 means a temperature or heat index determined by the superintendent of

1 public instruction as consistent with guidance established by the  
2 national weather service.

3 (c) A condition is foreseeable for the purposes of this  
4 subsection to the extent a reasonably prudent person would have  
5 anticipated prior to August first of the preceding school year that  
6 the condition probably would occur during the ensuing school year  
7 because of the occurrence of an event or a circumstance which existed  
8 during such preceding school year or a prior school year. A board of  
9 directors of a school district is deemed for the purposes of this  
10 subsection to have knowledge of events and circumstances which are a  
11 matter of common knowledge within the school district and of those  
12 events and circumstances which can be discovered upon prudent inquiry  
13 or inspection.

14 (3) The superintendent of public instruction shall make every  
15 effort to reduce the amount of paperwork required in administration  
16 of this chapter and RCW 28A.160.150 through ((28A.160.220))  
17 28A.160.210, 28A.300.035, 28A.300.170, and 28A.500.010; to simplify  
18 the application, monitoring and evaluation processes used; to  
19 eliminate all duplicative requests for information from local school  
20 districts; and to make every effort to integrate and standardize  
21 information requests for other state education acts and federal aid  
22 to education acts administered by the superintendent of public  
23 instruction so as to reduce paperwork requirements and duplicative  
24 information requests.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Section 3 of this act takes effect July 1,  
26 2026.

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