
HOUSE BILL 2631

State of Washington

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By Representatives Peery, Brough, H. Sommers, Neher, Sheldon, Roland, Valle, Paris, Pruitt, Mitchell, Prentice, Betrozoff, Rasmussen, P. Johnson and J. Kohl

Read first time 01/22/92. Referred to Committee on Education/Capital Facilities & Financing.

1 AN ACT Relating to school construction funding; amending RCW
2 28A.525.162; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the number of
5 students attending our public K-12 schools has grown significantly in
6 recent years, and that this enrollment growth is projected to continue
7 in the years ahead. The legislature further finds that the
8 availability of funds from the common school construction fund, which
9 has historically been the primary source of capital for new school
10 construction, has been substantially reduced because of reductions in
11 timber harvesting from state-owned lands. The legislature further
12 finds that this increase in demand for new school construction and the
13 reduction in available school construction funds make it imperative
14 that measures be taken to use our existing school buildings more

1 efficiently before allocating state funds for the construction of new
2 schools.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.525.162 and 1990 c 33 s 455 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) Funds appropriated to the state board of education (~~from the~~
6 ~~common school construction fund~~) for modernization and construction of
7 school facilities shall be allotted by the state board of education in
8 accordance with student enrollment and the provisions of RCW
9 28A.525.200.

10 (2) No allotment shall be made to a school district until such
11 district has provided matching funds equal to or greater than the
12 difference between the total approved project cost and the amount of
13 state assistance to the district for financing the project computed
14 pursuant to RCW 28A.525.166, with the following exceptions:

15 (a) The state board may waive the matching requirement for
16 districts which have provided funds for school building construction
17 purposes through the authorization of bonds or through the
18 authorization of excess tax levies or both in an amount equivalent to
19 two and one-half percent of the value of its taxable property, as
20 defined in RCW 39.36.015.

21 (b) No such matching funds shall be required as a condition to the
22 allotment of funds for the purpose of making major or minor structural
23 changes to existing school facilities in order to bring such facilities
24 into compliance with the handicapped access requirements of section 504
25 of the federal rehabilitation act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 706) and
26 rules implementing the act.

27 (3) For the purpose of computing the state matching percentage
28 under RCW 28A.525.166 when a school district is granted authority to
29 enter into contracts, adjusted valuation per pupil shall be calculated

1 using headcount student enrollments from the most recent October
2 enrollment reports submitted by districts to the superintendent of
3 public instruction, adjusted as follows:

4 (a) In the case of projects for which local bonds were approved
5 after May 11, 1989:

6 (i) For districts which have been designated as serving high school
7 districts under RCW 28A.540.110, students residing in the nonhigh
8 district so designating shall be excluded from the enrollment count if
9 the student is enrolled in any grade level not offered by the nonhigh
10 district;

11 (ii) The enrollment of nonhigh school districts shall be increased
12 by the number of students residing within the district who are enrolled
13 in a serving high school district so designated by the nonhigh school
14 district under RCW 28A.540.110, including only students who are
15 enrolled in grade levels not offered by the nonhigh school district;
16 and

17 (iii) The number of preschool handicapped students included in the
18 enrollment count shall be multiplied by one-half;

19 (b) In the case of construction or modernization of high school
20 facilities in districts serving students from nonhigh school districts,
21 the adjusted valuation per pupil shall be computed using the combined
22 adjusted valuations and enrollments of each district, each weighted by
23 the percentage of the district's resident high school students served
24 by the high school district; and

25 (c) The number of kindergarten students included in the enrollment
26 count shall be multiplied by one-half.

27 (4) Funds appropriated to the state board of education for
28 modernization and construction of school facilities shall be allocated
29 to school districts on the basis of a priority system adopted by the
30 board. For construction of new school facilities, the highest priority

1 shall be given to projects in districts that have implemented a
2 modified school calendar that is designed to increase the pupil
3 capacity of the district's school buildings. The state board may
4 allocate funds specifically appropriated to the board for financial
5 assistance to school districts for planning and implementing a modified
6 school calendar.

7 (5) The state board of education shall prescribe and make effective
8 such rules and regulations as are necessary to equate insofar as
9 possible the efforts made by school districts to provide capital funds
10 by the means aforesaid.

11 (~~(5)~~) (6) For the purposes of this section, "preschool
12 handicapped students" means developmentally disabled children of
13 preschool age who are entitled to services under RCW 28A.155.010
14 through 28A.155.100 and are not included in the kindergarten enrollment
15 count of the district.