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SENATE BILL 6879

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2008 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Tom, McDermott, and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/30/08. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to the joint task force on basic education finance;  
2 and amending 2007 c 399 s 2 (uncodified).

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

4            **Sec. 1.** 2007 c 399 s 2 (uncodified) is amended to read as follows:

5            (1) By December 1, 2008, the joint task force on basic education  
6 finance established under this section, with research support from the  
7 Washington state institute for public policy, shall review the  
8 definition of basic education and all current basic education funding  
9 formulas, develop options for a new funding structure and all necessary  
10 formulas, and propose a new definition of basic education that is  
11 realigned with the new expectations of the state's education system as  
12 established in the November 2006 final report of the Washington learns  
13 steering committee and the basic education provisions established in  
14 chapter 28A.150 RCW.

15            (2) The joint task force on basic education finance shall consist  
16 of fourteen members:

17            (a) A chair of the task force with experience with Washington  
18 finance issues including knowledge of the K-12 funding formulas,  
19 appointed by the governor;

1 (b) Eight legislators, with two members from each of the two  
2 largest caucuses of the senate appointed by the president of the senate  
3 and two members from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of  
4 representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of  
5 representatives;

6 (c) A representative of the governor's office or the office of  
7 financial management, designated by the governor;

8 (d) The superintendent of public instruction or the  
9 superintendent's designee; and

10 (e) Three individuals with significant experience with Washington  
11 K-12 finance issues, including the use and application of the current  
12 basic education funding formulas, appointed by the governor. Each of  
13 the two largest caucuses of the house of representatives and the senate  
14 may submit names to the governor for consideration.

15 (3) In conducting research directed by the task force and  
16 developing options for consideration by the task force, the Washington  
17 state institute for public policy shall consult with stakeholders and  
18 experts in the field. The institute may also request assistance from  
19 the legislative evaluation and accountability program committee, the  
20 office of the superintendent of public instruction, the office of  
21 financial management, the house office of program research, and senate  
22 committee services.

23 (4) In developing recommendations, the joint task force shall  
24 review and build upon the following:

25 (a) Reports related to K-12 finance produced at the request of or  
26 as a result of the Washington learns study, including reports completed  
27 for or by the K-12 advisory committee;

28 (b) High-quality studies that are available; and

29 (c) Research and evaluation of the cost-benefits of various K-12  
30 programs and services developed by the institute as directed by the  
31 legislature in section 607(15), chapter 372, Laws of 2006.

32 (5) The Washington state institute for public policy shall provide  
33 the following reports to the joint task force:

34 (a) An initial report by September 15, 2007, proposing an initial  
35 plan of action, reporting dates, timelines for fulfilling the  
36 requirements of section 3 (~~of this act~~), chapter 399, Laws of 2007,  
37 and an initial timeline for a phased-in implementation of a new funding  
38 system that does not exceed six years;

1 (b) A second report by December 1, 2007, including implementing  
2 legislation as necessary, for at least two but no more than four  
3 options for allocating school employee compensation. One of the  
4 options must be a redirection and prioritization within existing  
5 resources based on research-proven education programs. The report must  
6 also include a projection of the expected effect of the investment made  
7 under the new funding structure. The second report shall also include  
8 a finalized timeline and plan for addressing the remaining components  
9 of a new funding system; and

10 (c) A final report with at least two but no more than four options  
11 for revising the remaining K-12 funding structure, including  
12 implementing legislation as necessary, and a timeline for phasing in  
13 full adoption of the new funding structure. The final report shall be  
14 submitted to the joint task force by September 15, 2008. One of the  
15 options must be a redirection and prioritization within existing  
16 resources based on research-proven education programs. The final  
17 report must also include a projection of the expected effect of the  
18 investment made under the new funding structure.

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