
HOUSE BILL 2837

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Farrell, Pollet, Frame, and Walkinshaw

Read first time 01/22/16. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a legislative task force on
2 common school class size in school districts with more than forty-
3 five thousand students; creating a new section; and providing an
4 expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1)(a) A legislative task force on common
7 school class size in school districts with more than forty-five
8 thousand students is established, with members as provided in this
9 subsection.

10 (i) The president of the senate shall appoint one member from
11 each of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

12 (ii) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint
13 three members from the two largest caucuses of the house of
14 representatives: Two from the largest caucus of the house of
15 representatives, and one from the second largest caucus of the house
16 of representatives. Members appointed under this subsection
17 (1)(a)(ii) must represent legislative districts with school districts
18 with more than forty-five thousand students.

19 (iii) The governor shall appoint nonvoting members representing:

1 (A) Parent-teacher associations, one each from an elementary,
2 middle school, and high school parent-teacher association in a
3 district with more than forty-five thousand students;

4 (B) Boards of school directors from districts with more than
5 forty-five thousand students;

6 (C) Principals, one each from an elementary school, a middle
7 school, and a high school in a district with more than forty-five
8 thousand students.

9 (iv) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
10 cooperate with the task force and maintain a liaison representative,
11 who shall be a nonvoting member.

12 (b) The task force shall choose its cochairs from among its
13 legislative membership. The governor or the governor's designee shall
14 convene the initial meeting of the task force.

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

16 (a) Discrepancies, if any, between class sizes established in
17 allocation provisions in RCW 28A.150.260, and actual class sizes in
18 the elementary, middle, and high schools of school districts with
19 more than forty-five thousand students; and

20 (b) Barriers, if any, to better aligning class sizes established
21 in allocation provisions in RCW 28A.150.260 with actual class sizes
22 of schools in districts with more than forty-five thousand students.
23 Examples of barriers to better class size alignment include, but are
24 not limited to: Staffing; building capacity; and funding and
25 allocation provisions.

26 (3) Staff support for the task force must be provided by senate
27 committee services and the house of representatives office of program
28 research.

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

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

1 (6) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations,
2 including actions taken by districts with more than forty-five
3 thousand students to better align class sizes established in
4 allocation provisions in RCW 28A.150.260 with actual class sizes of
5 the district, to the governor, the superintendent of public
6 instruction, and the appropriate education committees of the house of
7 representatives and the senate. Preliminary recommendations must be
8 provided in accordance with this subsection by December 1, 2017, with
9 final recommendations submitted by December 1, 2018.

10 (7) This section expires June 30, 2019.

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