S-1970.	1		

SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5794

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2013 Regular Session

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Dammeier, Ranker, McAuliffe, Honeyford, Eide, and Litzow)

READ FIRST TIME 03/01/13.

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- AN ACT Relating to alternative learning experience courses; amending RCW 28A.150.100, 28A.150.325, 28A.250.010, 28A.250.020, 28A.250.050, 28A.525.162, and 28A.525.166; amending 2011 1st sp.s. c 34 s 1 (uncodified); adding a new chapter to Title 28A RCW; and recodifying RCW 28A.150.262 and 28A.150.325.
- 6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 7 **Sec. 1.** 2011 1st sp.s. c 34 s 1 (uncodified) is amended to read as 8 follows:
 - (1) Under Article IX of the Washington state Constitution, all children are entitled to an opportunity to receive a basic education. Although the state must assure that students in public schools have opportunities to participate in the instructional program of basic education, there is no obligation for either the state or school districts to provide that instruction using a particular delivery method or through a particular program.
 - (2) The legislature finds ample evidence of the need to examine and reconsider policies under which alternative learning that occurs outside the classroom using an individual student learning plan may be considered equivalent to full-time attendance in school, including for

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- 1 funding purposes. Previous legislative studies have raised questions
- 2 about financial practices and accountability in alternative learning
- 3 experience ((programs)) courses. Since 2005, there has been
- 4 significant enrollment growth in alternative learning experience online
- 5 ((programs)) courses, with evidence of unexpected financial impact when
- 6 large numbers of nonresident students enroll in ((programs)) courses.
- 7 Based on this evidence, there is a rational basis on which to conclude
- 8 that there are different costs associated with providing ((a program))
- 9 <u>courses</u> not primarily based on full-time, daily contact between
- 10 teachers and students and not primarily occurring on-site in a
- 11 classroom.
- 12 (3) For these reasons, the legislature intends to allow for
- 13 continuing review and revision of the way in which state funding
- 14 allocations are used to support alternative learning experience
- 15 ((programs)) <u>courses</u>.
- 16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.150.100 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 34 s 10 are each 17 amended to read as follows:
- 18 (1) For the purposes of this section and RCW 28A.150.410 and
- 19 28A.400.200, "basic education certificated instructional staff" means
- 20 all full-time equivalent classroom teachers, teacher librarians,
- 21 guidance counselors, certificated student health services staff, and
- 22 other certificated instructional staff in the following programs as
- 23 defined for statewide school district accounting purposes: Basic
- 24 education, secondary vocational education, general instructional
- 25 support, and general supportive services.
- 26 (2) Each school district shall maintain a ratio of at least forty-
- 27 six basic education certificated instructional staff to one thousand
- 28 annual average full-time equivalent students. This requirement does
- 29 not apply to that portion of a district's annual average full-time
- 30 equivalent enrollment that is enrolled in alternative learning
- 31 experience ((programs)) courses as defined in RCW 28A.150.325 (as
- 32 <u>recodified by this act)</u>.
- 33 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.150.325 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 34 s 2 are each
- 34 amended to read as follows:
- 35 (1) ((For purposes of this chapter,)) The definitions in this

1 <u>subsection apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly</u>
2 requires otherwise.

- (a) "Alternative learning experience ((program)) course" means a
 course ((or set of courses)) that is a delivery method for the program
 of basic education and is:
- $((\frac{a}{a}))$ (i) Provided in whole or in part independently from a regular classroom setting or schedule, but may include some components of direct instruction;
- (((b))) (ii) Supervised, instructed, monitored, assessed,
 evaluated, and documented by a certificated teacher employed by the
 school district or under contract as permitted by applicable rules; and
 (((c))) (iii) Provided in accordance with a written student
 learning plan that is implemented pursuant to the school district's
- 14 policy and rules adopted by the superintendent of public instruction
- 15 for alternative learning experiences.

- (b) "Hybrid course" means an alternative learning experience course where the student has instructional contact time for at least twenty percent of the total weekly time for the course.
- (c) "Instructional contact time" means instructional time with a certificated teacher. Instructional contact time must be for the purposes of actual instruction, review of assignments, testing, evaluation of student progress, or other learning activities or requirements identified in the student's written student learning plan. Instructional contact time must be related to an alternative learning experience course identified in the student's written student learning plan. Instructional contact time may occur in a group setting between the teacher and multiple students and may be delivered remotely using technology.
- 29 <u>(d) "Online course" has the same meaning as provided in RCW</u> 30 28A.250.010.
 - (e) "Remote course" means an alternative learning experience course where the student has in-person instructional contact time for less than twenty percent of the total weekly time for the course.
 - (f) "Total weekly time" means the estimated average hours per school week the student will engage in learning activities to meet the requirements of the written student learning plan.
- 37 (2) ((The broad categories of alternative learning experience as programs include, but are not limited to:

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- (a) Online programs as defined in RCW 28A.150.262;
- (b) Parent partnership programs that include significant participation and partnership by parents and families in the design and implementation of a student's learning experience; and
- (c) Contract based learning programs)) School districts may claim state funding under RCW 28A.150.260, to the extent otherwise allowed by state law including the provisions of RCW 28A.250.060, for students enrolled in alternative learning experience courses subject to the following requirements and limitations:
- 10 <u>(a) Remote courses may be offered to students in grades</u>
 11 kindergarten through twelve.
 - (b) Hybrid courses and online courses may be offered to students in grades kindergarten through twelve.
 - (c) High school courses must meet district or state graduation requirements and be offered for high school credit.
 - (3) School districts that offer alternative learning experience ((programs)) courses may not provide any compensation, reimbursement, gift, reward, or gratuity to any parents, guardians, or students for participation in the courses. School district employees are prohibited from receiving any compensation or payment as an incentive to increase student enrollment of out-of-district students in ((an)) alternative learning experience ((program)) courses. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, providing funds to parents, guardians, or students for the purchase of educational materials, experiences, services, or technological equipment. A district may purchase educational materials, equipment, or other nonconsumable supplies for students' use in alternative learning experience ((programs)) courses if the purchase is consistent with the district's approved curriculum, conforms to applicable laws and rules, and is made in the same manner as such purchases are made for students in the district's regular instructional program. Items so purchased remain the property of the school district upon program completion. not purchase or contract for instructional districts may cocurricular experiences and services that are included in alternative learning experience written student learning plan, including but not limited to lessons, trips, and other activities, unless substantially similar experiences and services are available to students enrolled in the district's regular instructional program.

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School districts that purchase or contract for such experiences and services for students enrolled in an alternative learning experience ((program)) course must submit an annual report to the office of the superintendent of public instruction detailing the costs and purposes of the expenditures. These requirements extend to contracted providers of alternative learning experience ((programs)) courses, and each district shall be responsible for monitoring the compliance of its providers with these requirements. However, nothing in this ((section)) subsection shall prohibit school districts from contracting with school district employees to provide services or experiences to students, or from contracting with online providers approved by the office of the superintendent of public instruction pursuant to chapter 28A.250 RCW.

(4) ((Part-time enrollment in alternative learning experiences is subject to the provisions of RCW 28A.150.350.

- (5) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules defining minimum requirements and accountability for alternative learning experience programs)) Each school district offering or contracting to offer alternative learning experience courses must:
- (a) Report annually to the superintendent of public instruction regarding the course types and offerings, and number of students participating in each; and
- 23 <u>(b) Document the district of residence for each student enrolled in</u> 24 an alternative learning experience course.
 - (5) School districts must assess the educational progress of enrolled students at least annually, using, for full-time students, the state assessment for the student's grade level and using any other annual assessments required by the school district. Part-time students must also be assessed at least annually. However, part-time students who are either receiving home-based instruction under chapter 28A.200 RCW or who are enrolled in an approved private school under chapter 28A.195 RCW are not required to participate in the assessments required under chapter 28A.655 RCW. The rules must address how students who reside outside the geographic service area of the school district are to be assessed.
 - (6) Beginning with the 2013-14 school year, school districts must designate alternative learning experience courses as such when

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- reporting course information to the office of the superintendent of public instruction under RCW 28A.300.500.
- 3 (7) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules 4 necessary to implement this section.
- 5 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.250.010 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 34 s 5 are each 6 amended to read as follows:

The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1)(a) "Multidistrict online provider" means:

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- (i) A private or nonprofit organization that enters into a contract with a school district to provide online courses or programs to K-12 students from more than one school district;
- (ii) A private or nonprofit organization that enters into contracts with multiple school districts to provide online courses or programs to K-12 students from those districts; or
- (iii) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, a school district that provides online courses or programs to students who reside outside the geographic boundaries of the school district.
- (b) "Multidistrict online provider" does not include a school district online learning program in which fewer than ten percent of the students enrolled in the program are from other districts under the interdistrict student transfer provisions of RCW 28A.225.225. "Multidistrict online provider" also does not include regional online learning programs that are jointly developed and implemented by two or more school districts or an educational service district through an interdistrict cooperative program agreement that addresses, at minimum, how the districts share student full-time equivalency for state basic education funding purposes and how categorical education programs, including special education, are provided to eligible students.
 - (2)(a) "Online course" means a course where:
- 31 (i) More than half of the course content is delivered 32 electronically using the internet or other computer-based methods; 33 ((and))
- (ii) More than half of the teaching is conducted from a remote location through an online course learning management system or other online or electronic tools; and

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- (iii) The student's primary instructional interaction is with a certificated teacher. Instructional interaction between the teacher and the student includes, but is not limited to, direct instruction, review of assignments, assessment, testing, progress monitoring, and educational facilitation.
 - (b) "Online school program" means a school program that:

- (i) Offers courses or grade-level coursework that is delivered primarily electronically using the internet or other computer-based methods;
- (ii) Offers courses or grade-level coursework that is taught by a teacher primarily from a remote location using online or other electronic tools. Students enrolled in an online program may have access to the teacher synchronously, asynchronously, or both;
- (iii) Offers a sequential set of online courses or grade-level coursework that may be taken in a single school term or throughout the school year in a manner that could provide a full-time basic education program if so desired by the student. Students may enroll in the program as part-time or full-time students; and
- (iv) Has an online component of the program with online lessons and tools for student and data management.
 - (c) An online course or online school program may be delivered to students at school as part of the regularly scheduled school day. An online course or online school program also may be delivered to students, in whole or in part, independently from a regular classroom schedule, but such courses or programs must comply with RCW 28A.150.262 (as recodified by this act) to qualify for state basic education funding.
 - (3) "Online provider" means any provider of an online course or program, including multidistrict online providers, all school district online learning programs, and all regional online learning programs.
- **Sec. 5.** RCW 28A.250.020 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 34 s 6 are each amended to read as follows:
- 33 (1) The superintendent of public instruction, in collaboration with 34 the state board of education, shall develop and implement approval 35 criteria and a process for approving online providers; a process for 36 monitoring and if necessary rescinding the approval of courses or

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programs offered by an online provider; and an appeals process. The criteria and processes for multidistrict online providers shall be adopted by rule by December 1, 2009.

- (2) When developing the approval criteria, the superintendent of public instruction shall require that providers offering online courses or programs have accreditation, or are candidates for accreditation, through the Northwest accreditation commission or another national, regional, or state accreditation program listed by the office of the superintendent of public instruction ((after consultation with the Washington coalition for online learning)). In addition to other criteria, the approval criteria shall include the degree of alignment with state academic standards and require that all teachers be certificated in accordance with Washington state law. When reviewing online providers that offer high school courses, the superintendent of public instruction shall assure that the courses offered by the provider are eligible for high school credit. However, final decisions regarding whether credit meets the school district's graduation requirements shall remain the responsibility of the school districts.
- (3) Initial approval of online providers by the superintendent of public instruction shall be for four years. The superintendent of public instruction shall develop a process for the renewal of approvals and for rescinding approvals based on noncompliance with approval requirements. Any multidistrict online provider that was approved by the digital learning commons or accredited by the Northwest association of accredited schools before July 26, 2009, and that meets the teacher certification requirements of subsection (2) of this section, is exempt from the initial approval process under this section until August 31, 2012, but must comply with the process for renewal of approvals and must comply with approval requirements.
- (4) The superintendent of public instruction shall make the first round of decisions regarding approval of multidistrict online providers by April 1, 2010. The first round of decisions regarding approval of online providers that are not multidistrict online providers shall be made by April 1, 2013. Thereafter, the superintendent of public instruction shall make annual approval decisions no later than November 1st of each year.
- 37 (5) The superintendent of public instruction shall establish an 38 online learning advisory committee within existing resources that shall

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provide advice to the superintendent regarding the approval criteria, 1 2 major components of the web site, the model school district policy, model agreements, and other related matters. 3 The committee shall include a representative of each of the following groups: Private and 4 public online providers, parents of online students, accreditation 5 6 organizations, educational service districts, school principals, teachers, school administrators, school board members, institutions of 7 8 higher education, and other individuals as determined by the 9 superintendent. Members of the advisory committee shall be selected by the superintendent based on nominations from statewide organizations, 10 11 serve three-year terms, and may be reappointed. 12 superintendent shall select the chair of the committee.

13 **Sec. 6.** RCW 28A.250.050 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 34 s 11 are each amended to read as follows:

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- (1) By August 31, 2010, all school district boards of directors shall develop policies and procedures regarding student access to online courses and online learning programs. The policies and procedures shall include but not be limited to: Student eligibility criteria; the types of online courses available to students through the school district; the methods districts will use to support student success, which may include a local advisor; when the school district will and will not pay course fees and other costs; the granting of high school credit; and a process for students and parents or quardians to formally acknowledge any course taken for which no credit is given. The policies and procedures shall take effect beginning with the 2010-11 school year. School districts shall submit their policies to the superintendent of public instruction by September 15, 2010. December 1, 2010, the superintendent of public instruction shall summarize the school district policies regarding student access to online courses and submit a report to the legislature.
- (2) School districts must award credit <u>and grades</u> for online high school courses successfully completed by a student that meet the school district's graduation requirements and are provided by an approved online provider.
- 35 (3) School districts shall provide students with information 36 regarding online courses that are available through the school

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district. The information shall include the types of information described in subsection (1) of this section.

(4) When developing local or regional online learning programs, school districts shall incorporate into the program design the approval criteria developed by the superintendent of public instruction under RCW 28A.250.020.

Sec. 7. RCW 28A.525.162 and 2012 c 244 s 2 are each amended to 8 read as follows:

- (1) Funds appropriated to the superintendent of public instruction from the common school construction fund shall be allotted by the superintendent of public instruction in accordance with this chapter.
- (2) No allotment shall be made to a school district until such district has provided local funds equal to or greater than the difference between the total approved project cost and the amount of state funding assistance to the district for financing the project computed pursuant to RCW 28A.525.166, with the following exceptions:
- (a) The superintendent of public instruction may waive the local requirement for state funding assistance for districts which have provided funds for school building construction purposes through the authorization of bonds or through the authorization of excess tax levies or both in an amount equivalent to two and one-half percent of the value of its taxable property, as defined in RCW 39.36.015.
- (b) No such local funds shall be required as a condition to the allotment of funds from the state for the purpose of making major or minor structural changes to existing school facilities in order to bring such facilities into compliance with the barrier free access requirements of section 504 of the federal rehabilitation act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 706) and rules implementing the act.
- (3) For the purpose of computing the state funding assistance percentage under RCW 28A.525.166 when a school district is granted authority to enter into contracts, adjusted valuation per pupil shall be calculated using headcount student enrollments from the most recent October enrollment reports submitted by districts to the superintendent of public instruction, adjusted as follows:
- 35 (a) In the case of projects for which local bonds were approved 36 after May 11, 1989:

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

- (ii) The enrollment of nonhigh school districts shall be increased by the number of students residing within the district who are enrolled in a serving high school district so designated by the nonhigh school district under RCW 28A.540.110, including only students who are enrolled in grade levels not offered by the nonhigh school district; and
- (iii) The number of preschool students with disabilities included in the enrollment count shall be multiplied by one-half;
- (b) In the case of construction or modernization of high school facilities in districts serving students from nonhigh school districts, the adjusted valuation per pupil shall be computed using the combined adjusted valuations and enrollments of each district, each weighted by the percentage of the district's resident high school students served by the high school district;
- (c) The number of kindergarten students included in the enrollment count shall be counted as one headcount student; and
- (d) The number of students residing outside the school district who are enrolled in alternative learning experience ((programs)) courses under RCW 28A.150.325 (as recodified by this act) shall be excluded from the total.
- (4) In lieu of the exclusion in subsection (3)(d) of this section, a district may submit an alternative calculation for excluding students enrolled in alternative learning experience ((programs)) courses. The alternative calculation must show the student headcount use of district classroom facilities on a regular basis for a regular duration by out-of-district alternative learning experience ((program)) students subtracted by the headcount of in-district alternative learning experience ((program)) students not using district classroom facilities on a regular basis for a reasonable duration. The alternative calculation must be submitted in a form approved by the office of the superintendent of public instruction. The office of the superintendent of public instruction must develop rules to define "regular basis" and "reasonable duration."

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- (5) The superintendent of public instruction, considering policy recommendations from the school facilities citizen advisory panel, shall prescribe such rules as are necessary to equate insofar as possible the efforts made by school districts to provide capital funds by the means aforesaid.
- (6) For the purposes of this section, "preschool students with disabilities" means children of preschool age who have developmental disabilities who are entitled to services under RCW 28A.155.010 through 28A.155.100 and are not included in the kindergarten enrollment count of the district.
- **Sec. 8.** RCW 28A.525.166 and 2012 c 244 s 3 are each amended to 12 read as follows:

Allocations to school districts of state funds provided by RCW 28A.525.162 through 28A.525.180 shall be made by the superintendent of public instruction and the amount of state funding assistance to a school district in financing a school plant project shall be determined in the following manner:

- (1) The boards of directors of the districts shall determine the total cost of the proposed project, which cost may include the cost of acquiring and preparing the site, the cost of constructing the building or of acquiring a building and preparing the same for school use, the cost of necessary equipment, taxes chargeable to the project, necessary architects' fees, and a reasonable amount for contingencies and for other necessary incidental expenses: PROVIDED, That the total cost of the project shall be subject to review and approval by the superintendent.
- (2) The state funding assistance percentage for a school district shall be computed by the following formula:

The ratio of the school district's adjusted valuation per pupil divided by the ratio of the total state adjusted valuation per pupil shall be subtracted from three, and then the result of the foregoing shall be divided by three plus (the ratio of the school district's adjusted valuation per pupil divided by the ratio of the total state adjusted valuation per pupil).

District adjusted Total state

36 3-valuation ÷ adjusted valuation

1	Computed	per pupil	per pupil	State
2	State	=		_ = - % Funding
3	Ratio	District adjusted	Total state	Assistance
4		3+valuation	÷ adjusted valu	ation
5		per pupil	per pupil	

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PROVIDED, That in the event the state funding assistance percentage to any school district based on the above formula is less than twenty percent and such school district is otherwise eligible for state funding assistance under RCW 28A.525.162 through 28A.525.180, the superintendent may establish for such district a state funding assistance percentage not in excess of twenty percent of the approved cost of the project, if the superintendent finds that such additional assistance is necessary to provide minimum facilities for housing the pupils of the district.

- (3) In addition to the computed state funding assistance percentage developed in subsection (2) of this section, a school district shall be entitled to additional percentage points determined by the average percentage of growth for the past three years. One percent shall be added to the computed state funding assistance percentage for each percent of growth, with a maximum of twenty percent.
- In computing the state funding assistance percentage in subsection (2) of this section and adjusting the percentage under subsection (3) of this section, students residing outside the school experience who are enrolled in alternative learning ((programs)) courses under RCW 28A.150.325 (as recodified by this act) shall be excluded from the count of total pupils. In lieu of the exclusion in this subsection, a district may submit an alternative calculation for excluding students enrolled in alternative learning experience ((programs)) courses. The alternative calculation must show the student headcount use of district classroom facilities on a regular basis for a reasonable duration by out-of-district alternative learning experience ((program)) students subtracted by the headcount of indistrict alternative learning experience ((program)) students not using district classroom facilities on a regular basis for a reasonable The alternative calculation must be submitted in a form approved by the office of the superintendent of public instruction. The office of the superintendent of public instruction must develop rules to define "regular basis" and "reasonable duration."

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(5) The approved cost of the project determined in the manner prescribed in this section multiplied by the state funding assistance percentage derived as provided for in this section shall be the amount of state funding assistance to the district for the financing of the project: PROVIDED, That need therefor has been established to the satisfaction of the superintendent: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That additional state funding assistance may be allowed if it is found by the superintendent, considering policy recommendations from the school facilities citizen advisory panel that such assistance is necessary in order to meet (a) a school housing emergency resulting from the destruction of a school building by fire, the condemnation of a school building by properly constituted authorities, a sudden excessive and clearly foreseeable future increase in school population, or other conditions similarly emergent in nature; or (b) a special school housing burden resulting from projects of statewide significance or imposed by virtue of the admission of nonresident students into educational programs established, maintained and operated in conformity with the requirements of law; or (c) a deficiency in the capital funds of the district resulting from financing, subsequent to April 1, 1969, and without benefit of the state funding assistance provided by prior state assistance programs, the construction of a needed school building project or projects approved in conformity with the requirements of such programs, after having first applied for and been denied state funding assistance because of the inadequacy of state funds available for the purpose, or (d) a condition created by the fact that an excessive number of students live in state owned housing, or (e) a need for the construction of a school building to provide for improved school district organization or racial balance, or (f) conditions similar to those defined under (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) of this subsection, creating a like emergency.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. (1) Funding for hybrid, remote, and online alternative learning experience courses as defined in RCW 28A.150.325 (as recodified by this act) shall be allocated by the office of the superintendent of public instruction based on the unenhanced statewide average running start basic education allocation rate for grades nine through twelve as specified in the omnibus appropriations act for each full-time equivalent alternative learning experience student.

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(2)(a) The office of financial management shall conduct a study, in 1 2 consultation with at minimum, one representative from a school district that administers hybrid courses, one representative from a school 3 district that administers online courses, and one representative from 4 5 a school district that administers remote alternative learning experience courses, the office of the superintendent of public 6 7 instruction, the Washington state institute for public policy, 8 individuals with expertise in outcome-based public school funding models, a Washington state nonprofit organization with expertise in 9 10 alternative learning education, and the legislative evaluation and 11 accountability program committee. The purpose of the study is to 12 create a proposal for efficiently and sustainably funding alternative 13 learning experience courses and recommend steps to increase the focus 14 on educational outcomes. The proposal may recommend the funding method in subsection (1) of this section or another method of funding. 15 study shall review alternative learning funding models used in other 16 17 The study results should include, but not be limited to, 18 recommendations for establishing baseline data regarding alternative 19 learning experience student proficiency and achievement in relation to students in a comparable demographic, identifying outcome targets and 20 21 methods to measure progress toward targets, identifying methods to 22 ensure ongoing evaluation of alternative learning experience outcomes 23 that account for the student demographics being served, and improving 24 alternative learning experience accountability.

25 (b) The office of financial management shall report its findings 26 from the study to the education committees of the legislature by 27 November 1, 2013.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 10. (1) RCW 28A.150.262 and 28A.150.325 are each recodified as sections in chapter 28A.--- RCW (the new chapter created in section 11 of this act).

31 (2) 2011 1st sp.s. c 34 s 1 is codified as a section in chapter 32 28A.--- RCW (the new chapter created in section 11 of this act).

33 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 11.** Sections 1 and 9 of this act constitute a new chapter in Title 28A RCW.

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