

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0228

School finance-model recalibration.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Wasserburger

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to school finance; establishing a select
 2 committee to conduct school finance model recalibration;
 3 providing for model recalibration subject to management
 4 council approval; imposing duties upon the department of
 5 education pertaining to school finance data requirements;
 6 providing funds for school finance litigation; providing
 7 appropriations; authorizing additional positions; and
 8 providing for an effective date.

9

10 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

11

12 **Section 1.**

13

14 (a) There is created a select committee on school
 15 finance recalibration consisting of the following members:

16

1 (i) Five (5) members of the Wyoming senate
2 appointed by the president of the senate, one (1) of whom
3 shall be the chairman of the senate education committee and
4 one (1) a member of the senate appropriations committee;

5
6 (ii) Five (5) members of the Wyoming house of
7 representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of
8 representatives, one (1) of whom shall be the chairman of
9 the house education committee and one (1) a member of the
10 house appropriations committee.

11
12 (b) The select committee shall undertake a study to
13 recalibrate the education resource block grant model in
14 accordance with W.S. 21-13-309(t) to determine if
15 modifications are necessary to ensure the model remains
16 cost-based in light of changing conditions and
17 modifications to the law, and shall administer the contract
18 with professional consultants to the legislature for model
19 recalibration as approved by the management council. A
20 report on recalibration, together with necessary
21 legislation, shall be provided to the legislature in
22 sufficient time for consideration during the 2006 budget
23 session. The select committee may introduce legislation as
24 other committees of the legislature.

1

2 (c) The select committee shall elect a chairman. The
3 legislative service office shall provide staff services to
4 the committee.

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6 (d) There is appropriated from the school foundation
7 program account to the legislative service office fifty
8 thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) which shall be used to fund
9 necessary expenses of the select committee.

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11 **Section 2.** Seven hundred sixty thousand dollars
12 (\$760,000.00) is appropriated from the school foundation
13 program account to the legislative service office to fund
14 model recalibration in accordance with section 1 of this
15 act. Funds appropriated under this section shall be
16 expended in accordance with the contractual agreement
17 entered into between the management council and
18 professional consultants to the legislature for
19 recalibration of the education resource block grant model.

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21 **Section 3.** Five hundred thousand dollars
22 (\$500,000.00) is appropriated from the school foundation
23 program account to the attorney general for funding
24 expenses associated with school finance litigation involved

1 in the school equity foundation lawsuit and incurred by
2 state's counsel for school finance litigation.

3

4 **Section 4.**

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6 (a) Nine hundred seventy-three thousand five hundred
7 eighty-six dollars (\$973,586.00) is appropriated from the
8 school foundation program account to the department of
9 education to improve the quality and availability of data
10 necessary for computations under the education resource
11 block grant model and for model recalibration efforts
12 conducted by the legislature in accordance with sections 1
13 and 2 of this act. The department shall provide support to
14 school districts in ensuring data quality and timeliness,
15 shall generate additional data required by model
16 recalibration and shall:

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18 (i) Modify rules, policies, practices and
19 procedures for improving the accuracy of school data, the
20 efficiency of the data collection process and for ensuring
21 uniform and standardized treatment of school data for
22 school district reporting purposes;

23

1 (ii) Develop processes and procedures ensuring
2 district compliance with standardized and uniform data
3 treatment and reporting;

4

5 (iii) Establish data validation procedures.

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7 (b) The department is authorized an additional five
8 (5) full-time positions to implement subsection (a) of this
9 section, and may expend funds appropriated under this
10 section for contractual services.

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12 **Section 5.** Appropriations authorized under this act
13 shall be for the period commencing upon the effective date
14 of this act and ending June 30, 2006.

15

16 **Section 6.** This act is effective immediately upon
17 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
18 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
19 Constitution.

20

21

(END)