

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:

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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.

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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 general fund to
7 the legislative service office fifty thousand dollars
8 (\$50,000.00) which shall be used to fund necessary expenses
9 of the select committee.

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

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

1 foundation lawsuit and incurred by state's counsel for
2 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 general fund to the department of education to improve the
9 quality and availability of data necessary for computations
10 under the education resource block grant model and for
11 model recalibration efforts conducted by the legislature in
12 accordance with sections 1 and 2 of this act. The
13 department shall provide support to school districts in
14 ensuring data quality and timeliness, shall generate
15 additional data required by model recalibration and shall:

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

22

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

5 (iii) Establish data validation procedures.

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

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.

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.

21 (END)