

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS30631 / S1161

This bill expands the Empowering Parents Program to add transportation to and from school as an allowable expense for the micro-grants (\$1,000/student; \$3,000 maximum per family). This bill also creates a pilot program for five years for up to 2,000 students per year to provide a tuition grant of \$6,000 per student. This tuition grant can be used for both traditional tuition or for the hiring of a certified teacher for a micro-school. The distribution of the tuition grant will be prioritized based on the lowest income applicants receiving the highest priority. The tuition grant pilot program sunsets in five years. The new tuition grants and the existing micro-grants will continue to be distributed via a digital platform. This bill also increases the transparency and accountability of the program. This legislation moves the operation of the Empowering Parents Grant Program from the State Board of Education to the State Department of Education.

FISCAL NOTE

In FY 24, this bill calls for \$30,000,000 in ongoing state funding for micro-grants. Starting in FY25, this bill calls for \$12,000,000 per year in state funding for tuition grants for the five years of the pilot program. Existing operational funding for the digital platform will be transferred from the State Board of Education to the State Department of Education.

Contact:

Senator Lori Den Hartog
(208) 332-1340
Senator Chuck Winder
(208) 332-1300
Representative Wendy Horman
(208) 332-1000

DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).