
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2048

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Santos and Pettigrew)

1 AN ACT Relating to first-class school districts for the purposes
2 of dividing large districts and limiting their number of board of
3 director members; adding a new section to chapter 28A.315 RCW;
4 creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.315
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 Effective September 1, 2019, no first-class school district may
9 comprise more than thirty-five thousand students or have more than
10 five members on its board of directors.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The superintendent of public
12 instruction shall convene educational service districts to analyze
13 options and make recommendations for a clear legal framework and
14 process for dividing a school district that has more than thirty-five
15 thousand students into two districts.

16 (2) The analysis must include, but not be limited to:

17 (a) A time frame, criteria, and process for initiating a division
18 of a school district;

1 (b) Roles and responsibilities of the office of the
2 superintendent of public instruction, educational service districts,
3 and regional committees on school district organization; and

4 (c) Recommendations for how to address such issues as:

5 (i) Drawing new district boundaries, and the timeline and process
6 for obtaining final voter approval on the new boundaries;

7 (ii) A process to transfer existing employees;

8 (iii) Identifying issues related to collective bargaining
9 agreements;

10 (iv) Division of assets and liabilities;

11 (v) Clarifying effective dates of transfers of property for
12 taxation purposes;

13 (vi) Dealing with levies and bonded indebtedness;

14 (vii) The timeline and process for reducing the number of
15 directors;

16 (viii) The process for involving community input, which shall
17 include at least three public hearings; and

18 (ix) Circumstances that require approval of voters in dividing
19 the school district.

20 (3) In conducting the analysis, the educational service districts
21 must consult with individuals with legal and financial expertise. The
22 educational service districts must also seek input from the public,
23 particularly residents of any school district that may be imminently
24 affected by section 1 of this act, with respect to recommendations
25 for a process for dividing a school district that has more than
26 thirty-five thousand students into two districts.

27 (4) The superintendent of public instruction must submit a final
28 report and recommendations to the governor and the education and
29 fiscal committees of the legislature by December 1, 2015. The
30 recommendations must specifically address amendments to current law
31 as well as propose new laws as necessary.

32 (5) This section expires July 1, 2016.

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