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HOUSE BILL 2117

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State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Pollet, Ortiz-Self, S. Hunt, Santos, Taylor,  
Scott, Griffey, and Shea

Read first time 02/13/15. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to reevaluating the duties of the state board of  
2 education; and creating new sections.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    The legislature finds that it is the  
5 primary policy setting body for the state of Washington, publicly  
6 elected and accountable and entrusted with the education of public  
7 schools. The legislature further recognizes that it does have the  
8 authority to delegate policy-setting duties to other entities, but  
9 that when such authority is not in alignment with legislative  
10 authority it can result in conflicting agendas. The legislature  
11 further finds that it has delegated a great deal of policy-making  
12 authority to the state board of education despite the fact that the  
13 state board is not a publicly elected board, is not specifically an  
14 executive arm of the legislature, and is not directly accountable to  
15 the people of the state of Washington.

16            In addition, the legislature also finds that the specific tasks  
17 and purposes for the establishment of the state board of education in  
18 2006 have been successfully completed, thereby providing the  
19 legislature the opportunity to reevaluate what legislative policy-  
20 setting authority it does or does not want to delegate to the state  
21 board of education and how much of what the state board of education

1 does in the way of implementation and rule making should be delegated  
2 to the office of the superintendent of public instruction, which is a  
3 body overseen by a publicly elected official with executive duties to  
4 operationalize the policies set by the legislature.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The legislature intends to reevaluate the  
6 duties of the state board of education, through a process to be  
7 determined by the education chairs of the house of representatives  
8 and senate, divesting the state board of education of inappropriate  
9 policy authority that resides in the purview of the legislature and  
10 transferring appropriate duties to the office of the superintendent  
11 of public instruction by December 1, 2015.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The superintendent of public instruction  
13 shall provide recommended statutory and rule changes to the  
14 legislature to implement the transfer of duties from the state board  
15 of education to the office of the superintendent of public  
16 instruction concurrent with submission of its 2016 supplemental  
17 budget proposal.

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