
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1420

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By House Local Government (originally sponsored by Representatives Wilcox, Springer, Magendanz, G. Hunt, Muri, Kirby, Takko, Kilduff, and Hargrove)

READ FIRST TIME 02/20/15.

1 AN ACT Relating to school siting and aiding school districts in
2 reducing overall school construction costs; creating a new section;
3 and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that school
6 districts are responsible for siting, building, and maintaining
7 school facilities that provide a learning environment supportive of
8 student achievement, and that schools are integral to the communities
9 they serve. The legislature intends in creating the legislative task
10 force on school siting, as provided in subsection (2) of this
11 section, to review school facility challenges created by enrollment
12 increases and recent education reforms, including expansion of full-
13 day kindergarten and smaller class sizes.

14 (2) A legislative task force on school siting is established,
15 with members as provided in this subsection. All member appointments
16 or selections must be made by July 1, 2015.

17 (a) The president of the senate shall appoint two members from
18 each of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

19 (b) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint two
20 members from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of
21 representatives.

1 (c) The governor shall appoint one member who represents
2 environmental concerns related to school siting and one member who
3 represents the building industry.

4 (d) The task force must also include:

5 (i) A representative of the association of Washington cities;

6 (ii) A representative of the Washington state association of
7 counties;

8 (iii) Two representatives of school districts, who represent
9 school districts that serve students in urban areas and currently are
10 experiencing difficulty finding suitable siting locations, selected
11 by the Washington association of school administrators;

12 (iv) Two representatives of school districts, who represent
13 school districts that serve students in rural areas and currently are
14 experiencing difficulty finding suitable siting locations, selected
15 by the Washington association of school administrators; and

16 (v) A representative of the Washington state association of
17 county and regional planning directors.

18 (3) The task force shall choose its chair from among its
19 legislative membership. The chair shall convene at least three
20 meetings of the task force.

21 (4) The task force shall review the issue of siting schools
22 inside and outside of urban growth areas. In reviewing this issue,
23 the task force must balance the planning goals and requirements set
24 forth in chapter 36.70A RCW with the needs of school districts facing
25 capacity issues and the infrastructure needs of local governments.

26 (5) Staff from the office of superintendent of public instruction
27 and from affected school districts, counties, and cities must support
28 the task force by providing local information as needed. Support
29 provided by staff from the office of superintendent of public
30 instruction must be provided within existing resources.

31 (6) Staff support for the task force must be provided by senate
32 committee services and the house of representatives office of program
33 research.

34 (7) Legislative members of the task force must be reimbursed for
35 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
36 members, except those representing an employer or organization, are
37 entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW
38 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

39 (8) The expenses of the task force must be paid jointly by the
40 senate and the house of representatives. Task force expenditures are

1 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee
2 and the house of representatives executive rules committee, or their
3 successor committees.

4 (9) The task force shall provide a summary of the task force's
5 discussions and any recommendations to the appropriate committees of
6 the legislature by December 1, 2015.

7 (10) This section expires January 1, 2016.

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