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HOUSE BILL 1860

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State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Santos, Pettigrew, Reykdal, and Magendanz

Read first time 01/30/15. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to first-class school director districts for the  
2 purposes of dividing large districts and limiting their number of  
3 board of director members; adding a new section to chapter 28A.343  
4 RCW; creating a new section; providing an effective date; providing  
5 an expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

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

7            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    A new section is added to chapter 28A.343  
8 RCW to read as follows:

9            Effective September 1, 2018, no first-class school director  
10 district may comprise more than thirty-five thousand students or have  
11 more than five members of its board of directors.

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

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

18            (a) A time frame, criteria, and process for initiating a division  
19 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;

6 (ii) A process to transfer existing employees;

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

9 (iv) Division of assets and liabilities;

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

12 (vi) Dealing with levies and bonded indebtedness; and

13 (vii) Circumstances that require approval of voters in dividing  
14 the school district.

15 (3) In conducting the analysis, the educational service districts  
16 must consult with individuals with legal and financial expertise.

17 (4) The superintendent of public instruction must submit a final  
18 report and recommendations to the governor and the education and  
19 fiscal committees of the legislature by December 1, 2015. The  
20 recommendations must specifically address amendments to current law  
21 as well as propose new laws as necessary.

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

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
24 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of  
25 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
26 effect July 1, 2015.

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