
HOUSE BILL 2048

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Santos and Pettigrew

Read first time 02/09/15. Referred to Committee on Education.

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; providing an effective date; providing an
5 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.315
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 Effective September 1, 2018, no first-class school district may
10 comprise more than thirty-five thousand students or have more than
11 five members on 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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