



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 595

Chairperson: Ron Raikes
Committee: Education
Date of Hearing: February 27, 2007

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 595 will establish a Task Force on School Funding for Economic Growth to develop a new proposed state aid system that:

- Provides a fair, predictable and stable source of funding for public schools;
- Assures equity of educational opportunities across the state;
- Provides the resources needed to meet state accreditation standards;
- Reduces or eliminates property tax funding for schools;
- Supports the economic and social growth of the state.

The Task Force will be composed of the chairpersons of the Education, Revenue, and Appropriations Committees of the Legislature, the Governor or his representative, the Commissioner of Education or his representative, representatives of business and industry or economic development organizations, representatives of school boards, teachers, administrators, parents, students, representatives of postsecondary education, and representatives of community organizations.

The Task Force will begin its work in July, 2007, and make a preliminary report by February 14, 2008 and a final report by October 1, 2008. The new funding plan will include:

- Sufficient funding for schools to meet state accreditation standards;
- Means to address special needs, sparsity, poverty, and immigrant students;
- Incentives for recruiting and retaining highly qualified staff;
- Substantial reduction of property taxes for support of the public schools.

The current state aid system, the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA), would sunset June 30, 2009. This proposal is modeled after the legislation which developed TEEOSA in 1988 and 1989.

LB 595 also states it is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate funds to carry out the purposes of the Act and the activities of the Task Force.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Gail F. Kopplin