

Amendment - 1st Reading-white - Requested by: Llew Jones - (H) Appropriations

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Pad McCracken,

HB0252.002.001

HOUSE BILL NO. 252

INTRODUCED BY L. JONES, W. GALT, S. NOVAK, L. MUSZKIEWICZ, M. NIKOLAKAKOS, P. ELVERUM, L. BENNETT, C. SCHOMER, C. COCHRAN, S. ROSENZWEIG, E. TILLEMANN, D. BEDEY, M. BERTOGLIO, E. BUTTREY, J. FULLER, B. GILLESPIE, E. MATTHEWS, W. MCKAMEY, C. SPRUNGER, J. KASSMIER, G. LAMMERS, S. VINTON, K. WALSH, J. ETCHART, B. BARKER, L. BREWSTER, J. COHENOUR, C. KEOGH, E. KERR-CARPENTER, G. NIKOLAKAKOS, S. MORIGEAU, G. PARRY, L. REKSTEN, M. ROMANO, P. TUSS, J. DARLING

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING SCHOOL FUNDING LAWS; ENHANCING THE SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA THROUGH INCENTIVES AND A HOUSING COST BUDGET AUTHORITY INCREASE; REVISING THE INCENTIVE TO INCREASE TEACHER BASE SALARIES; ESTABLISHING A NEW INCENTIVE RELATED TO RESOURCE SHARING AMONG SCHOOL DISTRICTS; EXPANDING THE TYPES OF EDUCATIONAL ENTITIES THAT CAN RECEIVE INCENTIVES FOR MEETING STARTING TEACHER PAY BENCHMARKS; RENAMING AND REVISING THE QUALITY EDUCATOR FUNDING COMPONENT; RESTORING FULL FUNDING TO THE ADVANCED OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM; INCLUDING DISTRICT CLERKS PERFORMING CERTAIN FUNCTIONS IN THE QUALITY EDUCATOR AND QUALIFIED STAFF FUNDING COMPONENT; INCLUDING CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS WORKING UNDER AN EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATION IN THE QUALITY EDUCATOR AND QUALIFIED STAFF FUNDING COMPONENT; ESTABLISHING A NEW K-12 BASE AID "FUTURE READY" FUNDING COMPONENT RELATED TO POSTGRADUATION PREPARATION; PROVIDING INCREASED BUDGET AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICTS IMPACTED BY HIGH HOUSING COSTS FOR USE IN ADDRESSING THOSE COSTS; REQUIRING THE LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST TO CREATE A SCHOOL FUNDING DATA DASHBOARD; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AMENDING SECTIONS 20-3-325, 20-6-326, 20-6-812, 20-7-102, 20-7-1404, 20-7-1503, 20-7-1506, 20-7-1602, 20-9-306, 20-9-324, 20-9-327, 20-9-344, AND 20-9-366, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

WHEREAS, the definition of a "basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools"

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2 **NEW SECTION. Section 18. Transition.** (1) (a) The legislature intends that the enhanced incentive
3 and flexibility in meeting the legislative goals for competitive teacher base pay under [this act] apply for and are
4 to be distributed in fiscal year 2026 and that the superintendent of public instruction robustly support
5 educational entities in fulfilling the data submission requirements to meet the legislative goals.

6 (b) For school fiscal year 2026 only:

7 (i) PRIOR TO ENHANCEMENTS UNDER SUBSECTION (1)(B)(II) AND APPLICABLE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026
8 BUDGET, EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT MUST HAVE THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT QUALITY EDUCATORS AND
9 QUALIFIED STAFF INCREASED BY 1.

10 ~~(i)(ii)~~ an educational entity must receive the enhanced incentives based on the entity's ~~written~~
11 commitment, IN A FORMAT PRESCRIBED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, to meet the revised
12 legislative goals for fiscal year 2026 established in [this act]:

13 (A) a teacher base salary in fiscal year 2026 that is at least 11 times the fiscal year 2026 quality
14 educator and qualified staff payment amount provided in 20-9-306, as amended in House Bill No. 15; and

15 (B) a teacher base salary in fiscal year 2026 that is at least 62% of the teacher average salary in
16 fiscal year 2025; and

17 ~~(ii)(iii)~~ the superintendent of public instruction shall allow an educational entity the opportunity to
18 provide this ~~written~~ commitment until [the effective date of this act] or May 15, 2025, whichever is later, and
19 adjust the entity's general fund BASE and maximum general fund budget limits and quality educator and
20 qualified staff payment for fiscal year 2026 accordingly and as applicable.

21 (2) (a) The legislature intends that emergency authorized teachers are included with the quality
22 educator and qualified staff payments distributed beginning in fiscal year 2026.

23 **(b)** The legislature intends that eligible district clerks ~~and emergency authorized teachers~~ are
24 included with the quality educator and qualified staff payments distributed beginning in fiscal year 2027.

25 (3) The legislature intends that the increases in maximum general fund budget limits related to
26 housing costs under [this act] apply for fiscal year 2026 and that the department of revenue and the
27 superintendent of public instruction collaborate to meet this intention. As applies to school fiscal year 2026:

28 (a) the department of revenue shall provide the housing cost data as described in [this act] that it

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would have provided in December 2023, had [this act] been effective then, to OPI within 10 days of [the effective date of this act]; and

(b) the superintendent of public instruction shall inform a school district of any increase to the district's maximum general fund budget limit for fiscal year 2026 ~~within 20 days of [the effective date of this act]~~ BY JUNE 1, 2025.

(4) FOR 2025 ONLY, THE MAY 1 DEADLINE FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL INFORMATION TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS UNDER 20-9-369 IS EXTENDED TO JUNE 1.

~~(4)(5)~~ The legislature intends that the future ready payment component provided for in [section 14] be fully operational for and result in initial distribution of funding by the office of public instruction during fiscal year ~~2027~~ 2028, based on the achievements of high school graduates of school year ~~2025-2026~~ during their high school careers.

~~(5)(6)~~ The legislature intends that the incentive for resource sharing under [section 16] be fully operational for and result in distribution of funding by the office of public instruction during fiscal year 2027.

NEW SECTION. Section 19. Codification instruction. [Sections 14 through 17] are intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 20, chapter 9, part 3, and the provisions of Title 20, chapter 9, part 3, apply to [sections 14 through 17].

NEW SECTION. Section 20. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the general fund to the office of public instruction \$100,000 for each fiscal year of the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, for advanced opportunity aid. The money is in addition to the amount appropriated in House Bill No. 2 for advanced opportunity aid.

NEW SECTION. Section 21. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

NEW SECTION. Section 22. Applicability. [This act] applies to school years beginning on or after July 1, 2025.

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