



Senate Education Committee

Senator Mike Folmer
Chairman

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BILL SUMMARY

House Bill 1738, Printer's No. 2878
Prime Sponsor: Representative O'Neill

SYNOPSIS:

House Bill 1738 amends the Public School Code to provide for a Basic Education Funding Commission.

BILL ANALYSIS:

House Bill 1738 amends the Public School Code to provide for a Basic Education Funding Commission to review and make recommendations related to basic education funding.

The Commission shall include the chairs and minority chairs of the Senate and House Education Committees, two legislators from each of the four legislative caucuses as determined by the leadership of each caucus, the Secretary of Education, the Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, and an individual from the Governor's administration appointed by the Governor.

The Commission is charged with reviewing and making recommendations on basic education funding in the Commonwealth. It may consider factors such as the market value/personal income aid ratio and the equalized millage rate averaged for each of the three most recent years, geographic price differences, high enrollment growth, high local support, high poverty levels, limited English proficiency enrollment, population based on district size and other factors.

The Commission must also draft proposed legislation and regulations on the findings, consult with experts, receive input from interested parties including school districts and charter and cyber charter school operators, hold public hearings, review basic education funding formulas utilized throughout the United States, review potential cost savings and consider the impact of changes to the funding distribution. Within one year, the Commission must issue a report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor, leadership of the four caucuses, chairs and minority chairs of the Senate and House Education Committees, the Secretary and the State Board of Education.

The General Assembly shall annually determine the level of state funding for basic education. The formula developed by the Commission shall not go in effect without approval of the General Assembly. The Commission must meet every five years to hold public hearings and a make report reviewing the basic education funding provisions.

Effective Date: Immediately.

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