

HB 283 -- State Funding for Elementary and Secondary Education

Sponsor: Thomson

This bill changes the laws regarding the school foundation formula that is used in determining state funding for elementary and secondary education. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Revises the definition of "dollar-value modifier" as it applies to the formula by specifying that it must be recalculated every fiscal year, beginning in Fiscal Year 2015, using a three-year simple moving average of specified federal wage data;

(2) Requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to make a proper adjustment to each affected district's local effort when a change in a school district's boundary lines occurs so that each district's local effort figure conforms to the new boundary lines of the district;

(3) Revises the definition of "performance district" to be any district that attains a score in the top 25% of districts as calculated by the School Improvement Program scoring guide for calculations to be utilized for school foundation formula payments in fiscal years after Fiscal Year 2016;

(4) Revises the definition of "state adequacy target" from never being recalculated downward to never being recalculated below the level used for Fiscal Year 2013. Currently, the recalculation must never result in a decrease from the previous state adequacy target amount;

(5) Defines "target proration factor" as the total formula appropriation for a specified fiscal year divided by the amount that would be necessary to fund the specified entitlement calculation for the same fiscal year utilizing the state adequacy target amount as calculated by the department for Fiscal Year 2013 to assist in the setting of a four-year series of appropriations targets;

(6) Repeals provisions regarding the funding formula that apply to previous school years; and

(7) Specifies funding targets for the foundation formula for Fiscal Year 2014 through Fiscal Year 2017 using the state adequacy target amount as calculated by the department for Fiscal Year 2013.

The bill contains an emergency clause.