

HB 312 -- SCHOOL DISTRICT ACCREDITATION

SPONSOR: McNeil

This bill requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop and implement a grant program to extend instructional time in underperforming districts for the purpose of improving academic achievement including, but not limited to, early childhood education. The department must develop guidelines for grant applications and establish priorities for grant distribution. The amounts awarded in grant moneys must be proportional to the amount the additional instruction time exceeds the required minimum hours of attendance and average daily attendance rate of the affected students. Unaccredited districts and provisionally accredited districts must receive priority for grants awarded under these provisions.

The Extended Instructional Time Fund is created consisting of all moneys that may be appropriated to it by the General Assembly and may include any gifts, contributions, grants, or bequests received from federal, state, private, or other sources. Upon appropriation, moneys in the fund are to be used solely for the implementation of the extended instructional time program.