

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
2019 FIRST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 136

BY DELEGATES HORNBUCKLE, DOYLE, MILEY, CAPUTO,
LAVENDER-BOWE, FLEISCHAUER, PYLES, THOMPSON, R.,
ROWE, SPONAUGLE, AND ZUKOFF

[Introduced May 20, 2019; Referred
to the Select Committee on Education B.]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
 2 designated 18-5-18d; and to amend and reenact §18-5-18e of said code, all relating to
 3 studies of issues effecting public school education; authorizing a study of student loan
 4 payments tax credits and a loan forgiveness program for teachers; and authorizing a study
 5 of class sizes.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 5. COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION.

§18-5-18d. Study of student loan tax credits and forgiveness on teacher recruitment and retention.

1 (a) The Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability shall conduct a
 2 study of the impact of a student loan tax credit for payments of principal and interest on eligible
 3 higher education loans; and a loan forgiveness to individuals teaching in particular areas of the
 4 state or licensure fields experiencing a teacher shortage on the recruitment and retention of high
 5 quality teachers. The commission may conduct the study as a whole or may appoint a
 6 subcommittee to conduct the study under its direction.

7 (b) The Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability shall issue a report
 8 of its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation necessary to effectuate its
 9 recommendations, on or before January 2, 2020.

§18-5-18e. Study of limits on the number of pupils per teacher in a classroom in elementary and middle schools.

1 (a) The Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability shall conduct a
 2 study of the effect of limits on the number of pupils per teacher in a classroom. The commission
 3 may conduct the study as a whole or may appoint a subcommittee to conduct the study under its
 4 direction. The study includes, but is not limited to, an examination of the following issues:

5 (1) The effect on student learning of limits on the number of pupils per teacher in a
 6 classroom in elementary classes and in a middle and high school format in which students have

7 different teachers for different subject matter instruction;

8 (2) The effect on the equity among teachers in a middle school in which the number of
9 pupils per teacher in a classroom is limited for some teachers and not for others, including the
10 additional pay for certain teachers in whose classrooms the limits are exceeded; and

11 (3) The effect limits on the number of pupils per teacher in a classroom have on the ability
12 of school systems to offer elective courses in secondary schools.

13 (b) The Legislative Oversight commission on education accountability shall issue a report
14 of its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation necessary to effectuate its
15 recommendations, on or before January 2, ~~2003~~ 2020. ~~In making its findings and~~
16 ~~recommendations the commission:~~

17 ~~(1) Shall include, at a minimum, a recommendation on whether the limits on the number~~
18 ~~of pupils per teacher in a classroom in a middle school format should be removed or capped on~~
19 ~~a county-wide or individual school basis; and~~

20 ~~(2) May not include as a recommendation consideration of imposing limits on the number~~
21 ~~of pupils per teacher at grade levels above the sixth grade~~

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to authorize studies of issues effecting public school education including a study of student loan payments tax credits, a loan forgiveness program for teachers and a study of class sizes.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.