WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2023 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 3222

By Delegates Dillon, Longanacre, Butler, Ross, Dean, and Hanna

[Introduced February 02, 2023; Referred to the Committee on Education then Finance]

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §18-9A-10a, relating to public school support; foundation allowances; creating the "Direct Foundation Funding Act"; providing that the foundation allowance for instructional funding shall be distributed directly and equally to teachers within districts; and requiring that students and parents receive a notice regarding digital technology use agreement that increased electronic technology use may lead to social, emotional, and psychological complications.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 9A. PUBLIC SCHOOL SUPPORT.

§18-9A-10a. Direct funding act.

(a) This section shall be known and cited as the "Direct Foundation Funding Act".

(b) Foundation allowance for instructional funding shall be distributed directly and equally to teachers within districts.

(1) Districts shall establish a separate "Classroom Expense Account" for each teacher.

(2) Funds shall be deposited directly to the account proportionately from State of West Virginia accounts.

(3) Teachers may elect to have Faculty Senate funds deposited to the same account for convenience.

(c) A "Classroom Expense Account" shall be held in a teacher’s name for exclusive use for classroom supplies and instructional materials by specified teacher. Teachers shall be issued a purchase card with which to make purchases from that account.

(1) Teachers shall have log-in access to view account balances online;

(2) Purchases made from "Classroom Expense Account" with a P-card shall be exempt from district vendor registration requirements;

(3) Purchases made from Classroom Expense Accounts shall be published online with a link to view from a district home web page.

(d) The following notice shall be provided to students and parents regarding digital technology use agreement:

(1) Many students experience technical difficulties with digital devices. Also, a growing list of research findings indicates that increased electronic technology use may lead to social, emotional, and psychological complications. Moreover, students with special needs or students with characteristics indicative of the autism spectrum may find that frequent use of electronic and/or digital technological devices complicate their educational experiences and/or cause emotional distress. In some cases, exposure to digital technology may exacerbate the amount of observed symptoms.

(2) Any student or parent may request and receive a nonelectronic version of class work assigned.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create the "Direct Foundation Funding Act" relating to public school support, and providing that foundation allowances for instructional funding be distributed directly and equally to teachers. The bill also requires that students and parents receive a notice regarding digital technology use agreement that increased electronic technology use may lead to social, emotional, and psychological complications.

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