

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2019 FIRST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill Number

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

different teachers for different subject matter instruction;

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

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

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

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

~~(2) May not include as a recommendation consideration of imposing limits on the number 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.