

Sixty-eighth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2328

Introduced by

Senators Wanzek, Erbele, Klein

Representatives Headland, Vigesaa, Weisz

1 A BILL ~~for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 4 of section 15.1-27-03.2 of the North~~
2 ~~Dakota Century Code, relating to weighting factors for rural schools.~~for an Act to create a school
3 funding task force; and to provide for a legislative management report.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

5 ~~**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 4 of section 15.1-27-03.2 of the North Dakota~~
6 ~~Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:—~~
7 ~~—4.—~~The school district size weighting factor determined under this section and
8 multiplied by a school district's weighted average daily membership equals the
9 district's weighted student units. For the 2022-23 school year, for school districts that
10 operate multiple kindergarten through grade twelve buildings at least ~~nineteen~~fourteen
11 ~~miles [30.5822.53 kilometers]~~ apart, or multiple buildings at least ~~nineteen~~fourteen
12 ~~miles [30.5822.53 kilometers]~~ apart with no replicated grades, the superintendent of
13 public instruction shall determine the school size weighting factor for each building
14 separately, ~~with no adjustment for elementary schools.~~ The superintendent of public
15 instruction shall multiply the school size weighting factor for each building by the
16 school district's weighted average daily membership to determine each building's
17 weighted student units. The superintendent of public instruction shall combine the
18 weighted student units of all buildings in the school district to determine the school
19 district's weighted student units.

20 **SECTION 1. SCHOOL FUNDING TASK FORCE - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE**
21 **MANAGEMENT.**
22 1. During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall establish and provide
23 staffing and administrative services to a school funding task force facilitated by a
24 nonpartisan leadership organization. The chair of legislative management may add

1 additional, temporary nonvoting members to the task force, as deemed necessary by
2 the task force chair, to serve without compensation. The task force may include public
3 school administrators or business managers, public school teachers, five members of
4 the legislative assembly appointed by the legislative management, parents of public
5 school students, representatives from the department of public instruction, a
6 representative from the governor's office, and a representative from a regional
7 education association.

8 2. During the 2023-24 interim, the school funding task force shall:

- 9 a. Review litigation the state was a party to relating to school funding and the
10 resulting implications for school funding models;
- 11 b. Analyze higher education funding sources to determine whether the sources may
12 be used in whole or in part for the kindergarten through grade twelve system;
- 13 c. Review school payment formulas to determine whether education costs can be
14 equalized across the state;
- 15 d. Study the size, student population, and economics of school districts and the
16 number of facilities within the district per square mile compared with student
17 population;
- 18 e. Develop and study sliding-scale models within school districts based on size,
19 student populations, and economics;
- 20 f. Assess the negative impacts of the current funding formula;
- 21 g. Study school funding formulas used by other states;
- 22 h. Determine the benefits of and incentives to promote school district consolidation;
- 23 i. Review school transportation costs considering location, size, and student
24 enrollment;
- 25 j. Study high-cost student and special education student costs as those costs relate
26 to the formula weighting factors; and
- 27 k. Analyze the cost of distance education, comparing the costs of different methods
28 of instruction delivery, including synchronous as compared to asynchronous
29 instruction.

30 3. The task force may:

- 1 a. Study the funding of school building maintenance and repairs considering
- 2 location and whether buildings are located in a rural or urban area; and
- 3 b. Review ending fund balances and analyze how the current funding formula
- 4 impacts ending fund balances.
- 5 4. The task force shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any
- 6 legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative
- 7 assembly.