

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT
with Conference Committee Amendments
ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2328**

Introduced by

Senators Wanzek, Erbele, Klein

Representatives Headland, Vigesaa, Weisz

1 A BILL for an Act to create a school funding task force; and to provide for a legislative
2 management report.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. SCHOOL FUNDING TASK FORCE - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE**
5 **MANAGEMENT.**

- 6 1. During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall establish and provide
7 staffing and administrative services to a school funding task force facilitated by a
8 nonpartisan leadership organization. The chair of legislative management may add
9 additional, temporary nonvoting members to the task force, as deemed necessary by
10 the task force chair, to serve without compensation. The task force may include public
11 school administrators or business managers, public school teachers, five members of
12 the legislative assembly appointed by the legislative management, parents of public
13 school students, representatives from the department of public instruction, a
14 representative from the governor's office, and a representative from a regional
15 education association.
- 16 2. During the 2023-24 interim, the school funding task force shall:
- 17 a. Review litigation the state was a party to relating to school funding and the
18 resulting implications for school funding models;
- 19 b. Analyze higher education funding sources to determine whether the sources may
20 be used in whole or in part for the kindergarten through grade twelve system;
- 21 c. Review school payment formulas to determine whether education costs can be
22 equalized across the state;

- 1 d. Study the size, student population, and economics of school districts and the
- 2 number of facilities within the district per square mile compared with student
- 3 population;
- 4 e. Develop and study sliding-scale models within school districts based on size,
- 5 student populations, and economics;
- 6 f. Assess the negative impacts of the current funding formula;
- 7 g. Study school funding formulas used by other states;
- 8 h. Determine the benefits of and incentives to promote school district consolidation;
- 9 i. Review school transportation costs considering location, size, and student
- 10 enrollment;
- 11 j. Study high-cost student and special education student costs as those costs relate
- 12 to the formula weighting factors; and
- 13 k. Analyze the cost of distance education, comparing the costs of different methods
- 14 of instruction delivery, including synchronous as compared to asynchronous
- 15 instruction.
- 16 3. The task force may:
 - 17 a. Study the funding of school building maintenance and repairs considering
 - 18 location and whether buildings are located in a rural or urban area; and
 - 19 b. Review ending fund balances and analyze how the current funding formula
 - 20 impacts ending fund balances.
- 21 4. The task force shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any
- 22 legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative
- 23 assembly.