

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0225

Select committee on education funding.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Harshman, Burkhardt,
Connolly, Flitner, Freeman, Madden, Miller,
Nicholas, B., Northrup and Paxton and
Senator(s) Bebout and Coe

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to education; creating the joint select
2 committee on education funding; specifying membership and
3 duties of the select committee; providing appropriations;
4 and providing for an effective date.

5

6 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

7

8 **Section 1.**

9

10 (a) There is created a joint select committee on
11 education funding consisting of fourteen (14) members as
12 follows:

13

1 (i) Two (2) members of the house education
2 committee;

3

4 (ii) Two (2) members of the senate education
5 committee;

6

7 (iii) Two (2) members of the house revenue
8 committee;

9

10 (iv) Two (2) members of the senate revenue
11 committee;

12

13 (v) One (1) member of the house appropriations
14 committee;

15

16 (vi) One (1) member of the senate appropriations
17 committee;

18

19 (vii) Two (2) at-large members of the house of
20 representatives;

21

22 (viii) Two (2) at-large members of the senate.

23

1 (b) The speaker of the house of representatives shall
2 appoint the house members of the select committee not later
3 than March 20, 2017, one (1) of whom the speaker shall
4 designate as cochairman. Not more than five (5) members
5 from the house of representatives shall be from the same
6 political party. The president of the senate shall appoint
7 the senate members of the select committee not later than
8 March 20, 2017, one (1) of whom the president shall
9 designate as cochairman. Not more than five (5) members
10 from the senate shall be from the same political party.

11

12 (c) The select committee shall study and recommend
13 solutions to the projected budget shortfall for funding
14 related to public education in the state of Wyoming. The
15 recommendations shall consider solutions necessary to
16 provide funding for schools until the next recalibration of
17 the education resource block grant model under W.S.
18 21-13-309(t). The select committee shall focus on four (4)
19 major issues related to school funding as follows:

20

21 (i) The potential for reductions in education
22 spending;

23

1 (ii) Options for use of existing funds;

2

3 (iii) Consideration of diversions of existing
4 revenue streams and investment income;

5

6 (iv) Options to increase revenues including
7 options that are time limited until the next recalibration
8 of the education resource block grant model under W.S.
9 21-13-309(t).

10

11 (d) The select committee shall also study and
12 recommend options for permanent funding solutions for
13 school capital construction and major maintenance.

14

15 (e) The select committee may form subcommittees to
16 study any of the issues specified in subsection (c) of this
17 section and any other issue within the select committee's
18 purview.

19

20 (f) The select committee shall solicit input and
21 recommendations from the school finance data advisory
22 committee established under W.S. 21-2-203(d) related to the
23 issues specified in subsection (c) of this section. The

1 school finance data advisory committee shall report to the
2 select committee within the timelines specified by the
3 cochairmen in order for the report of the school finance
4 data advisory committee to be considered.

5
6 (g) The governor shall appoint four (4) advisory
7 groups to provide input and recommendations to the select
8 committee. The state superintendent shall appoint one (1)
9 member to each advisory group. The governor and state
10 superintendent shall consult with the Wyoming school boards
11 association prior to appointing members of the advisory
12 groups and the governor shall ensure that the members of
13 the advisory groups include stakeholders representing
14 school districts, teachers, parents of students, taxpayers
15 and the general public, provided that no one (1) group
16 shall be required to include representatives of all
17 stakeholders. Each member of an advisory group who is not a
18 state employee may receive per diem and mileage for
19 attending and traveling to and from select committee or
20 subcommittee meetings in the same manner and amount as
21 state employees.

22

1 (h) The select committee shall be staffed by the
2 legislative service office. The department of education,
3 the department of revenue, the school facilities division
4 of the state construction department, the school facilities
5 commission and the state budget division of the department
6 of administration and information shall serve in an
7 advisory capacity to the select committee and shall provide
8 technical and other information to the select committee
9 upon request.

10
11 (j) The select committee shall introduce legislation
12 consistent with its recommendations to the legislature for
13 consideration during the next session of the legislature.
14 The select committee may, if it determines necessary,
15 recommend to the governor and the presiding officers of the
16 house and senate that the legislature convene in a special
17 session prior to the 2018 budget session to consider
18 legislation recommended by the select committee.

19
20 (k) The select committee may seek out expert opinions
21 related to the issues specified in subsections (c) and (d)
22 of this section and may hire consultants as necessary to

1 complete the study and recommendations required under this
2 section.

3
4 (m) The select committee, including meetings of
5 subcommittees, shall meet not less than seven (7) times
6 during the 2017 interim throughout the state in locations
7 determined by the cochairmen. To the extent practical, the
8 select committee or a subcommittee of the select committee
9 shall meet at least once in each of the seven (7)
10 appointment districts as provided in W.S. 9-1-218(b).

11
12 (n) The select committee shall complete its work and
13 recommendations not later than September 1, 2017.

14
15 (o) The select committee created by this section
16 shall exist until December 31, 2018.

17
18 **Section 2.**

19
20 (a) There is appropriated one hundred nine thousand
21 dollars (\$109,000.00) from the general fund to the
22 legislative service office. This appropriation shall be for
23 the period beginning with the effective date of this act

1 and ending June 30, 2019. This appropriation shall only be
2 expended for the purposes of the select committee on
3 education funding expenses as provided in section 1 of this
4 act. Any unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this
5 appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30,
6 2019.

7

8 (b) There is appropriated forty-six thousand dollars
9 (\$46,000.00) from the general fund to the governor's
10 office. This appropriation shall be for the period
11 beginning with the effective date of this act and ending
12 June 30, 2019. This appropriation shall only be expended
13 for the purpose of providing reimbursement for advisory
14 group members under subsection (g) of section 1 of this
15 act. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this
16 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any
17 other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds
18 remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided
19 by law on June 30, 2019.

20

1 **Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon
2 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
3 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
4 Constitution.

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6

(END)