



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Committee Statement
LB 657

Hearing Date: March 12, 2007

Committee On: Education

Introducer(s): (Raikes)

Title: Change provisions relating to distance education

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

Advanced to General File

Advanced to General File with Amendments

X Indefinitely Postponed

Vote Results:

7	Yes	Senators Adams, Avery, Burling, Howard, Johnson, Kopplin, and Raikes
	No	
	Present, not voting	
1	Absent	Senator Ashford

Proponents:

Senator Ron Raikes

Bob Uhing

Gordon Roethemeyer

Dan Hoelsing

Representing:

Introducer

Distance Education Council / Educational Service Unit #1

Distance Education Council

Laurel-Concord Public Schools / Coleridge Public Schools / Newcastle Public Schools

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative Bill 657 would expand eligibility for distance education incentives and equipment reimbursements.

Section 79-1332 would be amended by defining elementary distance education courses as distance education courses which are delivered with two-way interactive video to students who are enrolled in grades kindergarten through eight.

Section 79-1337 would be amended by allowing incentives for elementary distance education courses if funds are available after equipment reimbursements and incentives for high school courses. The incentives for each course hour would be the lesser of \$10 or the funds available for elementary incentives divided by the hours of elementary distance education courses sent or received by all school districts and educational service units (E.S.U.'s). The elementary incentives for each school district and E.S.U. would be the per hour incentive multiplied by the hours of courses sent or received. The current incentives for high school courses are not modified by this measure and are awarded based on units, with each unit being worth up to \$1,000. Districts sending or receiving a two-way interactive video course receive 1 unit. A course that does not use two-way interactive video receives 1 unit if a student receiving the course is in a sparse or very sparse school district. If a two-way interactive video course is received by a student in a sparse or very sparse school district, the sending district receives an additional unit.

Section 79-1336 would be amended by expanding the equipment reimbursement to include each E.S.U. office with a distance education classroom, up to one office for each 4,000 square miles within the E.S.U. If a school district has one or more former high school buildings with distance education classrooms that are no longer being used as high schools due to a school district merger, the buildings would be deemed a high school buildings for the purpose of determining eligibility for distance education equipment reimbursements. The current provisions allow up to \$20,000 in equipment reimbursements for each E.S.U. and \$20,000 times the number of high schools for each school district.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

Senator Ron Raikes, Chairperson