



Hundredth Legislature - Second Session - 2008
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 988

Chairperson: Ron Raikes
Committee: Education
Date of Hearing: February 11, 2008

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Legislative Bill 988 would change the structure of formula needs for school districts, transition from an elementary class size allowance to an elementary class size requirement, base school district budget authority on the new needs calculation, and replace adjusted valuations with assessed valuations for the calculation of resources.

The new needs calculation would compare school districts of similar size to arrive at a basic funding level. In addition, consideration would be given for remote elementary sites, elementary class sizes, poverty, limited English proficiency, focus schools and programs, special receipts, transportation, distance education and telecommunications, teacher education levels, new school buildings, student growth, instructional time, summer school, new learning community transportation increases, size ranges with below average costs, and cost sharing between the state and the school district for school districts with less than 390 students which are not in sparsely populated areas.

Along with other modifications to current allowances, a new provision requiring students in grades K-3 to be in classrooms of 20 or fewer students would be coupled with a phase out of the elementary class size allowance.

The new budget authority would be based on 120% of the needs calculation, with special education excluded from both the calculation of the maximum budget and the expenditures to be limited. The exceptions to the new maximum budget would be more limited. A three-year transition is included in the proposal.

The final aspect of the proposal is the replacement of adjusted valuations with assessed valuations for the calculation of state aid for both school districts and educational service units. The local effort rates would also be increased in response to the valuation changes.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Ron Raikes