

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 nineteenfourteen~~
11 ~~miles [30.5822.53 kilometers] apart, or multiple buildings at least nineteenfourteen~~
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 task force may include public school

1 administrators or business managers, public school teachers, five members of the
2 legislative assembly appointed by the legislative management, parents of public
3 school students, representatives from the department of public instruction, a
4 representative from the governor's office, and a representative from a regional
5 education association.

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

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

28 3. The task force may:

- 29 a. Study the funding of school building maintenance and repairs considering
30 location and whether buildings are located in a rural or urban area; and

- 1 b. Review ending fund balances and analyze how the current funding formula
- 2 impacts ending fund balances.
- 3 4. The task force shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any
- 4 legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative
- 5 assembly.