

SENATE BILL NO. 477—COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

(ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE TO STUDY A NEW
METHOD FOR FUNDING PUBLIC SCHOOLS)

MARCH 25, 2013

Referred to Committee on Finance

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to the basic support guarantee per pupil for school districts and the allocation of special education program units. (BDR 34-499)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to education; codifying the factors used by the Department of Education in recommending the basic support guarantee per pupil for each school district and requiring that the Department periodically review those factors; requiring the Department periodically to evaluate the method for allocating special education program units to each school district and charter school; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law declares that “the proper objective of state financial aid to public education is to ensure each Nevada child a reasonably equal educational opportunity.” (NRS 387.121) To accomplish this objective, the Legislature establishes, during each legislative session and for each fiscal year of the biennium, an estimated statewide average basic support guarantee per pupil. (NRS 387.122) This is the per-pupil amount that is “guaranteed” on a statewide basis through a combination of state money and certain local revenues.

However, because of local variations among school districts in wealth and educational costs, the Department of Education separately calculates, and recommends to the Legislature, a basic support guarantee per pupil for each school district. **Section 1** of this bill sets forth the factors to be considered by the Department in performing this calculation, in accordance with the Department’s existing practice, and requires that the Department periodically review those factors.



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Existing law and practice provide for the allocation of special education program units to school districts and charter schools. (NRS 387.1221) **Section 1** also requires that the Department periodically evaluate the method for making this allocation.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 387.122 is hereby amended to read as follows:

387.122 1. For making the apportionments of the State Distributive School Account in the State General Fund required by the provisions of this title, the basic support guarantee per pupil for each school district and the basic support guarantee for each special education program unit maintained and operated during at least 9 months of a school year are established by law for each school year.

2. *For the purposes of subsection 1, the Department shall make recommendations to the Legislature for determining the basic support guarantee per pupil for each school district based on the following:*

(a) Pupil population;
(b) Attendance area;
(c) Teacher allotment;
(d) School district expenditures;
(e) Transportation;
(f) The sources and amounts of money available to the school district;

(g) The group of school districts within which the school district has been placed by the Department based on the size and location of the school district; and

(h) Any other factor specified by the Department by regulation.

3. *The Department shall:*

(a) At least every 6 years, review the factors set forth in subsection 2.

(b) At least every 6 years, evaluate the method for allocating special education program units to each school district and each charter school and revise the method, as determined necessary by the Department.

(c) Develop and post on the Internet website maintained by the Department an informational pamphlet concerning the administration of the Nevada Plan for School Finance.

Sec. 2. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2013.

