

ESB 6499, SHB 2792 (Sec. 7), and  
ESSB 6002 (Sec. 924, as passed House)  
Creating the Joint Task Force on Local Education  
Financing Reforms

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# Current Law

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- ▶ **Local Property Tax Levies by school districts**
  - ▶ Must be approved by the voters of the district.
  - ▶ Must be spent only on enhancements and not BE.
  - ▶ Limited by the levy lid (28 percent for 205 districts; ranges from 28.01 percent to 37.90 percent for the remaining 90 districts).
- ▶ **Local Effort Assistance (Levy Equalization)**
  - ▶ Must have a local M&O levy with a 14 percent levy rate higher than the statewide average.
- ▶ **Technical Working Groups in ESHB 2261**
  - ▶ Levy and LEA Technical Working Group report July 2011.
  - ▶ Compensation Technical Working Group report June 2012.

# ESB 6499

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- ▶ **Creates the Joint Task Force on Local Education Financing Reform:**
  - ▶ Voting members: Four members from the Senate and Four members from the House.
  - ▶ Ex Officio members: Governor and Superintendent of Public Instruction
- ▶ **Directs the Task Force to review:**
  - ▶ The work of the Levy and Local Effort Assistance Technical Working Group, the Compensation Working Group, and other relevant studies; and
  - ▶ The use of local levies by school districts and the equity issues resulting from various aspects of the local levy process.
- ▶ **Requires the Task Force to submit a report by December 1, 2014:**
  - ▶ With recommendations addressing equity issues and providing a system for state and local funds that are distributed in an equitable manner.
  - ▶ Any recommendation contained in the report must be supported by six voting members of the Task Force.

# SHB 2792 - Section 7 and Sec. 924, ESSB 6002 (As Passed House)

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## Compared to ESB 6499:

- ▶ Same members, except all are voting members.
- ▶ Co-chairs must be a House and a Senate member.
- ▶ Adds tasks:
  - ▶ Review issues related to small school funding factors; and
  - ▶ Review the work of the Compensation Technical Working Group, as well as issues related to grandfathered salary allocations for certificated instructional staff and options for addressing regional labor markets in salary allocations.
- ▶ Removes:
  - ▶ Review and recommendations regarding equity issues resulting from levy process; and
  - ▶ Requirement for approval of recommendations by six members.