

H. B. 2642

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(By Delegates Gearheart, Ambler, Cooper, Householder, Hamrick,
R. Smith, Faircloth and Storch)

[Introduced February 6, 2015; referred to the
Committee on Education then Finance.]

10 A BILL to amend of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
11 designated §18-3-9c, relating to reduction of personnel employed by the West Virginia
12 Department of Education; legislative findings; establishing a maximum ratio of the number
13 of employees of the department to the number of students enrolled in the state after June 30,
14 2017; and requiring the state superintendent to establish a policy to attain the ratio.

15 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

16 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new
17 section, designated §18-3-9c, to read as follows:

18 **ARTICLE 3. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.**

19 **§18-3-9c. Reduction of personnel necessary to carry out the duties and meet departmental**
20 **goals.**

21 (a) The Legislature finds that the 2012 Education Efficiency Audit of West Virginia’s
22 Primary and Secondary Education System made several findings regarding the West Virginia
23 Department of Education, including:

- 1 (1) For the fiscal year 2011, the department lists a total of six hundred thirty-seven positions;
- 2 (2) In addition to the superintendent and deputy superintendent, the department has four
3 assistant superintendents, nineteen executive directors and twenty-seven assistant directors, one
4 division assistant chief and one executive director/chief financial officer;
- 5 (3) In fiscal year 2011, the department had a total payroll of \$45.7 million;
- 6 (4) The West Virginia Department of Education has the second highest ratio of state primary
7 and secondary education administrators and staff on the state level to students enrolled in primary
8 and secondary schools in the nation and the ratio is greatly in excess of that in any surrounding state;
9 and
- 10 (5) Taxpayers as well as primary and secondary education students in West Virginia deserve
11 the most efficient use of scarce education resources possible and classroom education should be the
12 primary focus of any education paradigm.
- 13 (b) After June 30, 2018, the number of employees of the department may not exceed a ratio
14 greater than one employee for every two thousand enrolled students in the state. The superintendent
15 shall develop and adopt a strategic plan and policy to meet this ratio, which may include, but is not
16 limited to, the following:
- 17 (1) Restructure the organization of the department with emphasis on meeting the major
18 educational goals and functions of the department;
- 19 (2) Identification of and, to the extent practicable, adoption of best practices used or
20 recommended by professionally recognized resources in the education community;
- 21 (3) Increase the span of supervisory control to not less than a one to ten ratio of supervisors
22 to subordinates to facilitate the reduction in the number of offices within the department;

- 1 (4) Reduction of the number of funded positions in the department; and
- 2 (5) Implementation of additional cross-department initiatives to reduce duplication of work
- 3 and effort to ensure funds are used as efficiently as possible.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to establish a maximum ratio of the number of employees of the West Virginia Department of Education to the number of students enrolled in the state after June 30, 2018 at not greater than one employee to two thousand students; and to require the state superintendent to establish a policy to attain the ratio.

This section is new; therefore, it has been completely underscored.