

# Initiative Measure No. 1252

filed January 7, 2013

## FUND EDUCATION FIRST INITIATIVE

AN ACT Relating to prioritizing basic education expenditures within the state appropriations process; amending RCW 28A.150.380; adding new sections to chapter 44.04 RCW; and creating new sections.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04 RCW to read as follows:

Under Article IX, section 1 of the state Constitution, it is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all of Washington's children. According to the state supreme court, this constitutional provision requires that the legislature define and fully fund a program of K-12 basic education before the legislature funds any other statutory programs. For these reasons, it is the intent of the people to require that all appropriations for K-12 basic education, together with appropriations for other K-12 education programs, be enacted into law before the legislature takes executive action on other omnibus appropriations legislation.

**Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.150.380 and 2012 1st sp.s. c 10 s 3 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The state legislature shall, at each regular session in an odd-numbered year, appropriate for the current use of the common schools such amounts as needed for state support to school districts during the ensuing biennium for the program of basic education under RCW 28A.150.200.

(2) In addition to those state funds provided to school districts

for basic education, the legislature may appropriate funds to be distributed to school districts for other factors and for other special programs to enhance or enrich the program of basic education.

(3) The funding for K-12 education purposes outlined by this section and other sections of the code must be made in legislation that is separate from the general fund budget. Such legislation must be enacted into law before the house of representatives and senate take executive action on the general fund or other budgets. For purposes of this subsection, "general fund" means the omnibus operating appropriations act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 44.04 RCW to read as follows:

Funding for K-12 education purposes must be enacted into law before the house of the representatives and senate take executive action on the general fund budget or other budgets.

The house of representatives and senate may adopt rules or resolutions to implement their respective responsibilities under this section.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. This act shall be known and cited as the "Fund Education First Initiative."

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