

State of Arizona
Senate
Forty-eighth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2008

SENATE BILL 1279

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 2, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 15-248; RELATING TO THE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON ARIZONA NATIONAL RANKINGS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Title 15, chapter 2, article 2, Arizona Revised Statutes,
3 is amended by adding section 15-248, to read:

4 15-248. Review committee on Arizona national rankings

5 A. THE EXECUTIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON ARIZONA NATIONAL RANKINGS IS
6 ESTABLISHED CONSISTING OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, EACH OF WHOM SHALL HAVE
7 EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE ON ISSUES PERTAINING TO EDUCATION, PUBLIC POLICY OR
8 ECONOMICS:

9 1. SEVEN PERSONS WHO ARE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

10 2. THREE PERSONS WHO ARE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

11 3. THREE PERSONS WHO ARE APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
12 REPRESENTATIVES.

13 B. THE COMMITTEE SHALL SELECT A CHAIRPERSON FROM AMONG THE MEMBERS OF
14 THE COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE SHALL SELECT A NEW CHAIRPERSON EACH CALENDAR
15 YEAR. A QUORUM SHALL CONSIST OF A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS. THE COMMITTEE
16 SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONCE EACH CALENDAR QUARTER.

17 C. THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE
18 APPOINTING AUTHORITY.

19 D. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE SHALL
20 PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT, ASSISTANCE AND RESOURCES TO THE COMMITTEE AS DIRECTED
21 BY THE COMMITTEE.

22 E. COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE COMPENSATION.

23 F. THE COMMITTEE SHALL COLLECT, EVALUATE AND ASSESS EXISTING STUDIES
24 AND FINDINGS CONDUCTED BY ANY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ENTITY ON THE NATIONAL
25 RANKINGS OF THIS STATE COMPARED TO OTHER STATES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

26 1. THE OVERALL QUALITY OF SCHOOLS IN THIS STATE BASED ON THE
27 FOLLOWING:

28 (a) ACADEMIC PRODUCTIVITY AS MEASURED BY ACADEMIC PROGRESS INDICATORS
29 TOWARD THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION. THE
30 ACADEMIC PRODUCTIVITY MEASURES SHALL INCLUDE THE AREAS OF READING, WRITING
31 AND MATHEMATICS, THE AVERAGE SCORES OF PUPILS ON NATIONALLY STANDARDIZED
32 NORM-REFERENCED ACHIEVEMENT TESTS AND OTHER ACADEMIC CATEGORIES DETERMINED BY
33 THE COMMITTEE.

34 (b) RATINGS OF SCHOOL QUALITY BY PARENTS AND THE TOTAL PERCENTAGE OF
35 PARENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE RATINGS.

36 2. SCHOOL FUNDING BASED ON THE FOLLOWING:

37 (a) THE AVERAGE SALARIES OF TEACHERS WHO PROVIDE INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOL
38 DISTRICTS IN THIS STATE COMPARED TO THE AVERAGE SALARIES OF TEACHERS WITH
39 SIMILAR LEVELS OF EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION IN OTHER STATES.

40 (b) THE AVERAGE SALARIES OF SUPERINTENDENTS, PRINCIPALS AND
41 VICE-PRINCIPALS IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THIS STATE COMPARED TO THE AVERAGE
42 SALARIES OF ADMINISTRATORS WITH SIMILAR LEVELS OF EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION IN
43 OTHER STATES.

1 (c) THE TOTAL AMOUNT AND THE PER PUPIL AMOUNT OF STATE MONIES
2 ALLOCATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THIS STATE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION
3 AND OVERSIGHT OF THE PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM.

4 (d) THE TOTAL AMOUNT AND THE PER PUPIL AMOUNT OF STATE MONIES
5 ALLOCATED TO CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION THROUGH GRADE TWELVE AND
6 THE PER PUPIL AMOUNT ALLOCATED SPECIFICALLY FOR NEW SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION.

7 (e) THE AVERAGE PER PUPIL AMOUNT OF STATE MONIES ALLOCATED DIRECTLY TO
8 SCHOOLS THAT PROVIDE PUBLIC EDUCATION THROUGH GRADE 12 IN THIS STATE.

9 (f) THE TOTAL PERCENTAGE OF THE STATE'S BUDGET EACH FISCAL YEAR THAT
10 IS DEDICATED TO PROVIDING PUBLIC EDUCATION THROUGH GRADE TWELVE.

11 (g) OTHER FUNDING CATEGORIES DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE.

12 3. THE WAGES PAID TO LAWFUL RESIDENTS OF THIS STATE BASED ON THE
13 FOLLOWING:

14 (a) AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES.

15 (b) THE AMOUNT OF ANNUAL PERCENTAGE INCREASES IN AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES.

16 G. FOR THE PURPOSES OF SUBSECTION F OF THIS SECTION, STUDIES AND
17 FINDINGS THAT ARE EVALUATED BY THE COMMITTEE MAY BE CONDUCTED BY ANY PUBLIC
18 OR PRIVATE ENTITY, EXCEPT THAT THE COMMITTEE SHALL RELY ONLY ON RESEARCH THAT
19 THE COMMITTEE DETERMINES IS SCIENTIFICALLY RELIABLE. THE COMMITTEE MAY
20 REQUEST THAT ADDITIONAL SPECIALIZED RESEARCH BE CONDUCTED BY PUBLIC OR
21 PRIVATE ENTITIES SELECTED BY THE COMMITTEE.

22 H. THE COMMITTEE SHALL SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1
23 REGARDING THE COMMITTEE'S FINDINGS TO THE GOVERNOR, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
24 OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE. COPIES OF THIS REPORT
25 SHALL BE PROVIDED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE ARIZONA
26 STATE LIBRARY, ARCHIVES AND PUBLIC RECORDS.