

# Representative Rebecca Himschoot

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## HOUSE BILL 69 EXPLANATION OF CHANGES Versions G to W.A

### Base Student Allocation

- A \$1,000 increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) on the effective date of July 1, 2025, is in version of HB 69 that passed the House (**Sections 22 and 37 Version W.A**).
- Inflation proofing provisions were removed in the House Rules Committee Substitute (**Section 1, Version G**).
- Additional increases to the BSA in the original bill of \$404 on July 1, 2026, and \$404 on July 1, 2027, were removed in the House Rules Committee Substitute (**Section 1, Version G**).

### Open Enrollment

- Open enrollment provisions were added to the House Rules Committee Substitute to allow for students to attend schools within their district as space allows. This is a trial program and sunsets in three years (**Sections 1, 2, 3, 30 and 34, Version W.A**).

### Measuring Student Academic Achievement Over Time

- Language was added on the House Floor to require districts to measure student academic achievement over time rather than at a point of time. This information shall be included in annual reports and used to determine performance of students, districts and individual schools (**Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 17 and 29, Version W.A**).

## Charter Schools

- In the House Rules Committee Substitute, and on the House Floor, changes were made to the statutory language that governs charter schools including:
  - Reducing the amount of time the State Board of Education has to issue a decision on an appeal to a charter school application denial from 90 days to 45 days **(Sections 9 and 33, Version W.A)**.
  - Requiring a local school board to provide written notice of a pending termination of a charter school contract and opportunity for the school to address the issues **(Sections 10 and 33, Version W.A)**.
  - Allowing charter schools to carry forward 10% of their annual unreserved budget and requiring the renewal process be as simple as possible **(Sections 11 and 33, Version W.A)**.
  - Giving charter schools an opportunity to appeal a termination to the commissioner **(Sections 12 and 33, Version W.A)**.
  - Increasing the allowable administrative costs that a local school board can deduct when calculating a charter school's budget from 4% to 8% **(Sections 13 and 33, Version W.A)**.
  - Making it clear that charter school contracts can be renewed for successive terms. **(Sections 14 and 33, Version W.A)**.
  - Establishing a charter school coordinator in the department **(Section 15, Version W.A)**.

## Correspondence Schools

- Language was added to the House Rules Committee Substitute that requires school districts to produce an annual report on correspondence programs. The report shall cover enrollment, fund use, assessments scores, and curriculum, among other things **(Sections 16, 18, 19 and 35, Version W.A)**.

## Reading Support

- An amendment was added in the House Rules Committee to provide a \$450 incentive grant for K -6<sup>th</sup> grade students who are performing at grade level or are showing improvement **(Sections 23, 24 and 36, Version W.A)**.

## Cell Phone Policy

- A section was added in the Rules Committee Substitute that directs the department to develop a model policy for the use of cell phones in schools and further requires districts to adopt the model policy or develop their own policy **(Section 25, Version W.A)**.

## **State Education Budget**

- On the House Floor an amendment was adopted that requires a separate appropriation bill to fund public education and stipulates that it is passed by the legislature by March 15<sup>th</sup> each year **(Sections 20, 21, 26, 27 and 28 in Version W.A)**.

## **Task Force and Department Recommendations**

- In the House Rules Committee Substitute language was added to require a legislative task force to look at education funding and accountability and direct the department to make recommendations on ways to address the regulatory and statutory burdens on school districts **(Sections 31 and 32 in Version W.A)**.