

MIDDLE SCHOOLS TASK FORCE

1998 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Sponsor: David H. Steele

Lyle W. Hillyard
Scott N. Howell

Joseph L. Hull

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AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION; CREATING A MIDDLE SCHOOLS TASK FORCE; PROVIDING FOR MEMBERSHIP; PROVIDING DUTIES AND FOR AN INTERIM REPORT; PROVIDING FOR A \$24,500 APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING A REPEAL DATE.

This act enacts uncodified material.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Middle Schools Task Force -- Creation -- Membership -- Quorum -- Staff.

(1) (a) There is created the Middle Schools Task Force consisting of the following § [15] 17 § members:

(i) three members of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate, no more than two of whom may be from the same political party;

(ii) five members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, no more than three of whom may be from the same political party;

(iii) one member shall be from the governor's office;

(iv) one member shall be from the State Office of Education;

(v) one member shall be from the Utah School Boards Association;

(vi) one member shall be a middle school principal;

(vii) two members shall be middle school teachers, one of whom teaches in grade 7 and one of whom teaches in grade 8; and

(viii) § [one member] THREE MEMBERS § shall be § [a parent of a] PARENTS OF § middle school § [student] STUDENTS § .

27 (b) The members listed in Subsections (1)(a)(iii) through § [(viii)] (vii) § shall be
27a appointed by the

- 1a -

1 governor in consultation with the State Board of Education.

1a § (c) (i) ONE OF THE PARENT MEMBERS UNDER SUBSECTION (1)(a)(viii) SHALL BE
1b APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, ONE SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF
1c THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND ONE SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

1d (ii) IN ADDITION TO THE PARENT MEMBERS UNDER SUBSECTION (1)(a)(viii), AT LEAST 50%
1e OF THE REST OF THE MEMBERS SHALL HAVE A CHILD WHO ATTENDS OR WHO HAS ATTENDED A
1f MIDDLE SCHOOL. §

2 (2) (a) The president of the Senate shall designate a member of the Senate appointed under
3 Subsection (1)(a)(i) as a cochair of the task force.

4 (b) The speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate a member of the House
5 of Representatives appointed under Subsection (1)(a)(ii) as a cochair of the task force.

6 (3) (a) A majority of the members of the task force constitute a quorum.

7 (b) The action of a majority of a quorum constitutes the action of the task force.

8 (4) (a) Salaries and expenses of legislative members of the task force shall be paid in
9 accordance with Section 36-2-2 and Legislative Joint Rule 15.03.

10 (b) Members of the task force who are not legislators receive no additional compensation
11 for their work associated with the task force.

12 (5) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall provide staff support
13 to the task force.

14 Section 2. **Duties -- Interim report.**

15 (1) The task force shall review and make recommendations on the following issues related
16 to middle schools in the state's public education system:

17 (a) preparing teachers and administrators to be able to work effectively in middle schools;

18 (b) the need for and use of counselors and other support personnel in middle schools;

19 (c) class sizes at the middle school level;

20 (d) innovative and creative methods for delivering educational services, such as the use
21 of interdisciplinary teams in teaching;

22 (e) staff inservice and mentoring programs;

23 (f) restructuring of programs, which could include the reallocation of resources;

24 (g) discipline and safety concerns for both students and faculty; § [and]

24a (h) RECEIVING CREDIT TOWARDS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION FOR CORE CLASSES 9, 1998

24b TAKEN IN SEVENTH OR EIGHTH GRADE THAT ARE USUALLY TAKEN BY NINTH OR TENTH
24c GRADERS; AND §

25 § ~~(h)~~ (i) § any other related middle school issues formally approved by a majority of the task
26 force.

27 (2) A final report, including any proposed legislation, shall be presented to the Education
28 Interim Committee before December 31, 1998.

29 Section 3. **Appropriation.**

30 There is appropriated from the General Fund for fiscal year 1997-98:

31 (1) \$3,500 to the Senate to pay for compensation and expenses of senators on the task

1 force;

2 (2) \$6,000 to the House of Representatives to pay for compensation and expenses of
3 representatives on the task force; and

4 (3) \$15,000 to the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel to pay for staffing
5 the task force.

6 Section 4. **Repeal date.**

7 This act is repealed December 31, 1998.

Legislative Review Note
as of 11-20-97 1:14 PM

A limited legal review of this bill raises no obvious constitutional or statutory concerns.

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

Committee Note

The Education Interim Committee recommended this bill.