

SENATE

STATE OF MINNESOTA

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

S.F. No. 2717

(SENATE AUTHORS: CLAUSEN)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
03/14/2016	5037	Introduction and first reading Referred to Education
03/24/2016	5250a	Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to State and Local Government
03/31/2016		Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to Finance

A bill for an act  
relating to education; creating a task force to examine and recommend the  
elimination of unfunded mandates in general education; requiring a report;  
appropriating money.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **GENERAL EDUCATION UNFUNDED MANDATES TASK FORCE.**

Subdivision 1. **Recommendations and duties.** The General Education Unfunded Mandates Task Force is established to investigate, examine, and recommend to the legislature and the commissioner of education the elimination of unfunded mandates related to general education in Minnesota schools.

Subd. 2. **Definitions.** For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given.

(a) "Mandate" means a requirement imposed by state law or rules or promulgated by the commissioner of education or the Board of Teaching upon a school district, charter school, or private school that, if not complied with, results in civil liability, injunctive relief, a criminal penalty, or an administrative sanction, including reduction or loss of funding. This definition does not include requirements imposed by federal law or rules.

(b) "Unfunded" means an expected additional cost to school districts, charter schools, and private schools that exceeds the legislative appropriations to school districts, charter schools, and private schools to cover these costs.

Subd. 3. **Membership.** (a) The General Education Unfunded Mandates Task Force shall have 11 members appointed by July 1, 2016, as follows:

- (1) two members appointed by the governor;
- (2) two members appointed by the commissioner of education;

(3) one member appointed by the house of representatives Education Finance Committee;

(4) one member appointed by the house of representatives Education Innovation Policy Committee;

(5) one member appointed by the senate Education Committee;

(6) one member appointed by the senate Finance Committee E-12 Budget Division;

(7) one member appointed by Minnesota Association of School Administrators;

(8) one member appointed by Minnesota School Boards; and

(9) one member appointed by Minnesota Association of School Business Officials.

(b) At least three members shall be current teachers.

Subd. 4. **Terms.** Unless replaced by their appointing authority, each member shall serve until the task force expires.

Subd. 5. **First meeting.** The commissioner of education must convene the first meeting of the task force by August 1, 2016.

Subd. 6. **Chair.** The chair of the task force must be elected by the task force membership at the first meeting and, unless replaced by a vote of the task force membership, shall serve as chair until the task force expires.

Subd. 7. **Assistance.** The commissioner of education, upon request, must provide technical assistance and support to task force members, including identifying past reports that have identified unfunded mandates that should be eliminated.

Subd. 8. **Report.** By January 1, 2017, the task force must submit its recommendations to the chairs of the committees of the legislature with jurisdiction over education and the commissioner of education regarding unfunded mandates that should be eliminated. The commissioner must consider these recommendations when advising the governor on the governor's education policy and funding budget recommendations.

Subd. 9. **Expiration.** The task force expires the day after submitting its final report under subdivision 8.

**Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION; GENERAL EDUCATION UNFUNDED MANDATES TASK FORCE.**

\$..... in fiscal year 2017 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of education for the duties of the General Education Unfunded Mandates Task Force established in section 1.