

Hello Senator Weber and Jeanine,

You have asked for a review by sections of LC 43, but I believe a review by subheading may be a little clearer.

Sections 1 to 4 of LC 43 replace the existing QEM/QEC framework for preparing a report on public education appropriations with a new method. The new method allows for the creation of a cost model that is prepared under a contract between an independent entity and LPRO. The cost model is revised or changed every eight years under a contract, and DAS updates any cost estimates for intervening biennia. Under this subheading:

- Section 1 establishes the quality goals of public education that the constitution requires (“quality goals established by law”).
- Section 2 describes the process for preparing the report required under the constitution and specifies that JWM prepares the report (instead of a joint committee related to the appropriation of moneys for public education, or JPEA, which is abolished).
- Section 3 describes the process for the development of the cost model, as described above. The model will be dependent on the use of prototypes of schools and school districts.
- Section 4 provides transitional provisions. The 2027 report will be based on an update to the 2025 report prepared under the QEM while reports beginning with the 2029 report will be based on the new cost models.

Sections 5 to 22 of LC 43 describe the requirements for being a standard school district. Being a standard school district is one of the quality goals of public education, as provided by section 1 (1) of the draft. Currently, statutes do not provide much direction for when a school district is a standard school district. ODE has significant input on when a school district is considered a standard school district, based on where administrative rules are codified (usually Division 22), but the Legislative Assembly has no say on where rules are codified. As a result, the Legislative Assembly has specified in a few statutes that the provisions of the statute relate to a school district being standard. Under LC 43, a school district is standard only if the school district follows ALL statutes and administrative rules for school districts. The amended statutes under that subheading provide consistency in

terminology and remove any references to whether compliance with the statute is necessary to be a standard school district because compliance with all statutes is necessary to be a standard school district.

Sections 23 to 29 of LC 43 reflect the repeals of the Quality Education Commission and the joint committee.

I hope this helps. I know it's brief, but I wanted to send something before the committee meets. If you have any specific questions or would like to talk through the draft, I would be happy to help.

Hannah