

Midterm, continued from page 1

beginning with the 1997-8 school year, State Aid will be based on current year chargeable revenue and the highest weighted average daily membership for the first nine weeks of the current school year, the preceding school year or the second preceding school year; establishes the procedure for determining State Aid; applies the teacher experience and degree calculation to the Foundation Aid component of the State Aid Formula; requires the department of education to retain at least 1.5 percent of the funds appropriated for State Aid to pay for midyear adjustments due to increased enrollment; requires the Tax Commission and Commission of the Land Office to make reports monthly to the Department of Education specifying the apportionment of state dedicated revenues and school land monies;

✓ Limits the current method of determining the weighted pupil grade level calculation, the weighted pupil category calculations, the weighted district calculation and the weighted teacher experience and degree calculation until the 1997-98 school year;

✓ Effective with the 1997-98 school year, establishes the new method for determining the weighted pupil grade level calculation, the weighted pupil category calculation, the weighted district calculation and the weighted teacher experience and degree calculation based on the highest weighted average daily membership for the first nine weeks of the current school year, the preceding school year or the second preceding school year;

✓ Expands the purposes for which a school district may request a student's So-

cial Security number to include determining student enrollment, to establish a mobility rate for the allocation of State Aid Formula and midyear adjustments for student growth funding; and authorizes the department of education to develop an alternative accountability system for student identification for those purposes; and

✓ Requires the State Department of Education to provide written notification by July 10, 1996, to each school district describing the changes in State Aid funding provided in the bill.

"This is the agreement to the permanent fix," Sen. Don Williams, D-Balko, told fellow senators.

While there was no discussion of the measure in the House, questions were raised about language in the bill relating to the establishment of a mobility rate for students. Williams said the concept is to ensure students are only counted once in the funding formula.

"We're trying to make sure we're not paying for a student twice," he said.

Begley reiterated that position while speaking to reporters.

"Eventually, we are looking to implement a tracking system or reporting system that will allow us to look at enrollment numbers without having to do a hand count," he explained. "We'll be able to call up a student (by Social Security number) and it won't show that he's enrolled in two or three schools."

Begley said such a system, in light of currently available technology, may be easier to implement than first thought. If so, he added, the \$1.5 million allocated to implementing the student tracking system should be more than enough.

The midterm funding proposal passed the House by a vote of 98-0. The bill also passed the Senate by a 44-1 vote.

In addition to approving the midterm funding plan, both houses of the legislature passed bills to make midterm money available for the past two academic years, as well as for the 1996-97 school year.

Money for the 1996-97 school year — \$15 million — will come from the state's general revenue fund under the terms of **SB834**. The bill passed the House by a vote of 99-0 and cleared the Senate on a 42-0 vote.

The bill also includes general revenue fund appropriations of \$6.3 million for midterm adjustments for the 1994-95 school year and \$6.7 million for the 1995-96 school year.

HB2824 provides the remaining funding for the 1994-95 and 1995-96 school years from the Rainy Day fund. Some \$6.3 million was appropriated from the account for the 1994-95 school year, while an additional \$6.7 million will be drawn from the Rainy Day account for the 1995-96 school year.

That bill was approved by the House in a 90-8 vote. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 44-1.

(See related story, *Rainy Day Fund Appropriations*, on page 4.)

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1997-98 SCHOOL YEAR STATE AID FORMULA

Revisions in the State Aid Formula are to take effect July 1, 1997 and include the following changes:

Current Formula

Uses the highest weighted ADM of the two preceding school years

Applies the Teacher Experience and Degree Index only to the Salary Incentive component of the formula

Uses the adjusted assessed valuation of the next preceding year and chargeables revenues of the second preceding school year

Calculates tentative State Aid allocation in July and by June makes an adjustment for student growth

Revised Formula

Uses the highest weighted ADM of the first nine-weeks of the current school year, the preceding school year or the second preceding school year

Applies the Teacher Experience and Degree Index to the Foundation Aid and the Salary Incentive components of the formula

Uses the adjusted assessed valuation of the current school year and chargeables revenues of the preceding year

Calculates initial State Aid allocation in July and calculates final State Aid allocation in December

All other aspects of the State Aid Formula remain unchanged