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HOUSE BILL 1303

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State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Rasmussen, Brumsickle, Peery, Rayburn, Fraser, Nealey, McLean, Dorn, Bowman, Roland, Tate, Moyer, Inslee, Sheldon, Betrozoff, Chandler, Cooper, Spanel, Orr, Vance, P. Johnson, Hargrove, Jones, R. Johnson, Riley, Paris and Edmondson.

Read first time January 25, 1991. Referred to Committee on Education\Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to technological and vocational agricultural  
2 education; amending RCW 28A.300.080 and 28B.80.350; adding new sections  
3 to chapter 28A.300 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28B.10 RCW;  
4 adding a new chapter to Title 28A RCW; and making appropriations.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.300.080 and 1983 1st ex.s. c 34 s 1 are each  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 The legislature recognizes that agriculture is the most basic and  
9 singularly important industry in the state, that agriculture is of  
10 central importance to the welfare and economic stability of the state,  
11 and that the maintenance of this vital industry requires a continued  
12 source of trained and qualified individuals who qualify for employment  
13 in agriculture and (~~agribusiness~~) related business fields. The  
14 legislature declares that it is within the best interests of the people  
15 and state of Washington that a comprehensive vocational education

1 program in agriculture be maintained in the state's secondary school  
2 system.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** In meeting the responsibilities of RCW  
4 28A.300.080, the vocational agriculture education service area shall  
5 encourage greater student and teacher knowledge of environmentally  
6 sensitive and benign agricultural and landscaping practices, water  
7 conservation, and agricultural worker protections.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The superintendent of public  
9 instruction may grant funds to school districts for vocational  
10 educational materials and instruction in one or more of the following  
11 areas:

12 (a) Benign and sustaining agricultural natural resource management  
13 systems and practices that protect human health and environmental  
14 resources;

15 (b) Organic farming practices and certification standards as  
16 defined by chapter 15.86 RCW;

17 (c) Water conservation practices and techniques;

18 (d) Xeriscaping and drought-resistant landscaping;

19 (e) Employee safety standards and practices for the handling of  
20 agricultural equipment and materials; and

21 (f) Environmental challenges, including air and water quality.

22 (2) Interested school districts shall file an application for funds  
23 that includes a description of the educational component, including  
24 student leadership and supervised agricultural experience, and how it  
25 meets one or more of the objectives in subsection (1) of this section.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The superintendent of public instruction,  
27 in consultation with Washington State University's college of

1 agriculture and home economics and vocational agriculture instructors,  
2 shall develop and administer a vocational agriculture education  
3 institute to provide in-service training programs for vocational  
4 agriculture instructors around the state. In-service training programs  
5 shall be designed to provide teacher training and knowledge on the  
6 changing agriculture industry and shall include, but not be limited to,  
7 training courses in the latest technological advances in occupational  
8 equipment and techniques, international agricultural trade issues,  
9 environmental education, and other issues necessary to ensure  
10 instructors are current with agricultural trends. The institute shall  
11 seek out guidance and assistance from industry, trade groups, and  
12 environmental organizations.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The superintendent of public instruction  
14 shall develop and implement an in-service training program designed to  
15 provide vocational agriculture education instructors with training in  
16 teaching at-risk students, disadvantaged students, developmentally  
17 disabled students, and students from different cultures. The in-  
18 service training program shall identify and enhance the unique features  
19 of vocational agriculture education that are effective in dropout  
20 prevention.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The superintendent of public instruction  
22 shall adopt rules that establish general program approval standards for  
23 determining the terms and conditions under which school districts are  
24 eligible to receive state funds for secondary vocational agricultural  
25 education. The standards shall include a provision regarding the use  
26 of extended learning experiences for certificated vocational  
27 agriculture education instructors for students in vocational

1 agricultural education and provide assistance to districts in  
2 determining when to offer such experiences.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Commencing with the 1991-92 school year,  
4 the formula adopted by the legislature pursuant to RCW 28A.150.260  
5 shall include a ratio of ninety-two one-hundredths certificated  
6 instructional staff and eight one-hundredths certificated  
7 administrative staff to sixteen and sixty-seven one-hundredths annual  
8 average full-time equivalent students in grades nine through twelve  
9 enrolled in vocational agriculture education programs approved by the  
10 superintendent of public instruction: PROVIDED, That any increase in  
11 funds generated by the change in the ratio of certificated personnel to  
12 annual average full-time equivalent vocational agriculture students  
13 shall be used by local school districts to provide additional state  
14 support for their vocational agriculture education programs, including  
15 extended learning experiences for instructors, commencing with the  
16 1991-92 school year.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** (1) Each school district, skills center,  
18 educational service district, interdistrict cooperative, or public  
19 vocational technical institute receiving state funds for vocational  
20 agricultural programs shall consult with a local advisory council on  
21 vocational agricultural education. The district may create a council  
22 or may use an existing entity that meets the requirements of this  
23 section and sections 9 and 10 of this act. Joint councils may be  
24 established.

25 (2) The councils shall be composed of members who are  
26 representative of the population found in the area that the council  
27 serves. The council shall be composed of representatives of the

1 general public including at a minimum representatives of business,  
2 industry, labor, and spokespersons for persons with disabilities.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** The local advisory council shall provide  
4 advice and assistance to the school district, skills center,  
5 educational service district, interdistrict cooperative, or public  
6 vocational technical institute on:

7 (1) Selecting equipment and instructional materials and  
8 establishing specifications for training areas. The council shall  
9 suggest ways to provide for the efficient and effective use of  
10 equipment and insure maximum use of the equipment;

11 (2) Determining training needs;

12 (3) Determining content and length of courses;

13 (4) Determining current and future employment opportunities and  
14 requirements;

15 (5) Making recommendations to help provide for experienced and  
16 knowledgeable instructors; and

17 (6) Providing support for the entire vocational education program.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** A school district shall only be  
19 eligible to receive funds to upgrade or to acquire equipment for  
20 vocational agricultural education programs if the district in  
21 consultation with the local advisory council has developed a vocational  
22 agricultural education program improvement component within their plan.  
23 The improvement component shall describe: Methods for strengthening  
24 vocational education; business and industry partnerships; the potential  
25 to aid local economic development; staff training; the need for  
26 extended or supplemental contracts for specific certificated  
27 instructional staff in vocational programs; job placement; consistency  
28 with the state plan for vocational education; and the basic skills and

1 core competencies required for successful employment. In developing  
2 the plan, coordination with community colleges, business and industry,  
3 and other school districts, educational service districts,  
4 interdistrict cooperatives, skills centers, and public vocational  
5 technical institutes shall be considered. The plan shall be revised at  
6 least once every two years.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** The entity in the state of Washington  
8 qualifying as the entity for the receipt of federal funds shall, with  
9 available funds, provide technical assistance to local vocational  
10 agricultural education advisory committees.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10  
12 RCW to read as follows:

13 In developing admission standards, each four-year institution of  
14 higher education shall recognize the relevance of vocational  
15 agriculture education courses and the competencies taught in such  
16 courses and shall make every effort to designate applicable vocational  
17 agriculture education courses as course equivalencies.

18 **Sec. 13.** RCW 28B.80.350 and 1988 c 172 s 4 are each amended to  
19 read as follows:

20 The board shall coordinate educational activities among all  
21 segments of higher education taking into account the educational  
22 programs, facilities, and other resources of both public and  
23 independent two and four-year colleges and universities. The four-year  
24 institutions and the state board for community college education shall  
25 coordinate information and activities with the board. The board shall  
26 have the following additional responsibilities:

27 (1) Promote interinstitutional cooperation;

1           (2) Establish minimum admission standards for four-year  
2 institutions, including a requirement that coursework in sign language  
3 shall satisfy any foreign language requirement the board or the  
4 institutions may establish as a general undergraduate admissions  
5 requirement. The standards shall include recognition of the relevance  
6 of vocational agriculture education courses and the competencies taught  
7 in such courses and the use of vocational agriculture education courses  
8 having academic equivalencies to meet admission requirements to four-  
9 year institutions;

10           (3) Establish transfer policies;

11           (4) Adopt rules implementing statutory residency requirements;

12           (5) Develop and administer reciprocity agreements with bordering  
13 states and the province of British Columbia;

14           (6) Review and recommend compensation practices and levels for  
15 administrative employees, exempt under chapter 28B.16 RCW, and faculty  
16 using comparative data from peer institutions;

17           (7) Monitor higher education activities for compliance with all  
18 relevant state policies for higher education;

19           (8) Arbitrate disputes between and among four-year institutions or  
20 between and among four-year institutions and community colleges at the  
21 request of one or more of the institutions involved, or at the request  
22 of the governor, or from a resolution adopted by the legislature. The  
23 decision of the board shall be binding on the participants in the  
24 dispute;

25           (9) Establish and implement a state system for collecting,  
26 analyzing, and distributing information;

27           (10) Recommend to the governor and the legislature ways to remove  
28 any economic incentives to use off-campus program funds for on-campus  
29 activities; and

1 (11) Make recommendations to increase minority participation, and  
2 monitor and report on the progress of minority participation in higher  
3 education.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** Sections 2 through 7 of this act are  
5 each added to chapter 28A.300 RCW.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** Sections 8 through 11 of this act shall  
7 constitute a new chapter in Title 28A RCW.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 16.** The sum of five hundred thousand  
9 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for  
10 the biennium ending June 30, 1993, from the general fund to the  
11 superintendent of public instruction for the purposes of section 3 of  
12 this act.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 17.** The sum of one hundred thousand  
14 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for  
15 the biennium ending June 30, 1993, from the general fund to the  
16 superintendent of public instruction for the purposes of section 4 of  
17 this act.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 18.** The sum of one million nine hundred  
19 thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is  
20 appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 1993, from the general  
21 fund to the superintendent of public instruction for the purposes of  
22 section 6 of this act.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 19.** The sum of five hundred thousand  
24 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for

1 the biennium ending June 30, 1993, from the general fund to the  
2 superintendent of public instruction for the purposes of section 10 of  
3 this act.