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HOUSE BILL 1311

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State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Orr, Winsley, Dorn, Roland, Rasmussen, Dellwo, Jacobsen, Pruitt and Brekke.

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

1            AN ACT Relating to early intervention and prevention school  
2 programs; adding a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; creating a new  
3 section; and making an appropriation.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**            The legislature finds that the increase  
6 in family and social problems in our state is having a serious impact  
7 on many of our children, and that many of these children will not be  
8 able to lead full and productive lives unless efforts are made to  
9 provide additional health care services, support, and counseling. The  
10 legislature further finds that assistance in a child's early years has  
11 the potential of making a significant difference in the student's  
12 future educational and social achievement, thereby making the provision  
13 of early intervention and prevention services an excellent investment  
14 for the child and the state.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 28A.300

2    RCW to read as follows:

3        (1) The fair start program is hereby established.    The purpose of  
4    the fair start program is to provide financial resources to assist  
5    school districts in providing early intervention and prevention  
6    services for elementary school children.

7        (2) Funds from the fair start program shall be used by school  
8    districts and educational service districts to provide counseling,  
9    health care, and other types of social services.    These services may be  
10   provided by private contractors, educational staff associates, licensed  
11   mental health care providers, child psychiatrists, health care  
12   providers, and social service caseworkers or social workers.    Funds  
13   also may be used for the evaluation required in subsection (5) of this  
14   section, and for training related to the district's early intervention  
15   and prevention program.

16        (3) The superintendent of public instruction shall distribute funds  
17   for the fair start program equitably to all school districts based on  
18   the district's enrollment in kindergarten through sixth grade.  
19   However, the allocations for school districts enrolling fewer than one  
20   thousand full-time equivalent students shall be distributed to the  
21   educational service district in which the district is located.    The  
22   educational service district shall use the allocation to provide early  
23   intervention and prevention services under a cooperative agreement  
24   between the district and the educational service district.    To the  
25   maximum extent possible, educational service districts shall coordinate  
26   the use of staff and resources to serve these school districts with  
27   less than one thousand students.

28        (4) School districts shall establish formal arrangements for  
29   coordinated case management with lead mental health agencies and other  
30   public or private social service agencies.

1           (5) By June 30, 1993, and every three years thereafter, school  
2 districts and educational service districts that receive funds under  
3 the fair start program shall submit a report to the superintendent of  
4 public instruction that includes a description of the programs and  
5 services funded through the fair start program, and an evaluation of  
6 the effectiveness of these programs and services. The evaluation shall  
7 be conducted by an organization or individual not associated, directly  
8 or indirectly, with the school district or educational service  
9 district. The superintendent of public instruction shall prepare a  
10 synthesis of the reports and evaluations, and shall submit the  
11 synthesis by December 1, 1993, and every three years thereafter.

12           NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 3.**           The sum of nine million four hundred  
13 thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is  
14 appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 1993, from the general  
15 fund to the superintendent of public instruction for the purposes of  
16 section 2 of this act.