

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1051

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*As Reported By House Committee on:  
Higher Education*

**Title:** An act relating to international student exchange programs.

**Brief Description:** Requiring international student exchange visitor placement organizations to be registered.

**Sponsor(s):** Representatives Fraser, Forner, Prince, Jacobsen, Van Luven, Peery, Brough, Miller, Cantwell, Basich, Valle, Ogden, Dellwo, Wood, Ludwig, Sheldon, Morris, Tate, Ferguson, Silver, May, Ballard, Bowman, Haugen, Brumsickle, Jones, Broback, R. King, Mitchell, McLean and Winsley.

**Brief History:**

Reported by House Committee on:  
Higher Education, January 31, 1991, DPS.

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**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
HIGHER EDUCATION**

**Majority Report:** *That Substitute House Bill No. 1051 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.*  
Signed by 13 members: Representatives Jacobsen, Chair; Ogden, Vice Chair; Wood, Ranking Minority Member; May, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Basich; Dellwo; Fraser; Ludwig; Miller; Prince; Sheldon; Spanel; and Van Luven.

**Staff:** Marilee Scarbrough (786-7196).

**Background:** Currently, the state of Washington does not require organizations which place international exchange student visitors in public schools to register. Many questions and concerns have arisen over the past several months concerning organizations who place students in Washington. Some of the problems in Washington included recruiting of host families in shopping center parking lots, foreign students seeking enrollment with a lack of English speaking skills, students not having a local representative to contact in their area, misrepresentation of the medical condition of a foreign exchange student and sexual abuse of a foreign student.

Two organizations currently exist which set standards for international travel and monitor compliance with those

standards. Those organizations are the United States Information Agency and the Council on Standards for International Education. The United States Information Agency (USIA) is the federal agency which issues the IAP-66 forms which are necessary for the international student to obtain a J-1 visa. Prior to designation and issuance of the IAP-66 forms, USIA requires an organization to meet a set of standards. Those standards address a wide range of issues including selection of students, orientation of students and host families, health and accident insurance, acceptance of students, employment of students, and supervision of the sponsor.

The Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) was created in December 1984. CSIET was created after a study by the Council of Chief State School Officers, assessed the need for industry-wide exchange standards and pointed out a number of problems and potential problems in the exchange and international educational travel field. Representatives of a group of educational associations, community/volunteer based groups and exchange program sponsors then met in 1984 to consider and develop standards and a system of program evaluation. CSIET sets standards for international travel programs, evaluates travel programs, and publishes an advisory list of international educational travel and exchange programs as a service to schools and prospective international high school programs.

***Summary of Substitute Bill:*** The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction is given the responsibility of maintaining a registry of international student exchange visitor placement organizations who place students in Washington public schools. It is unlawful for an international student exchange placement organization to place students in Washington public schools unless the organization is registered with the superintendent and meets one of the following criteria: (1) is designated as qualified by USIA; (2) is listed with the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel; or (3) is an organization, approved by the superintendent, to place students in Washington public schools. It is a misdemeanor for organizations to place students in Washington state in violation of these provisions.

The superintendent will notify the public and private schools which organizations are eligible to place in Washington public schools. The superintendent will provide organizations a summary of this legislation.

The information required in the registration form is outlined. That information includes: (1) the name,

address, and telephone number of the person within the organization responsible for placement; (2) the name, address and telephone number of the organization and of its chief executive officer; (3) the organizations unified business identification number; and (4) information on whether the organization belongs to CSIET or USIA. The superintendent may require additional information as necessary to carry out the functions assigned to the superintendent.

The superintendent will provide a leadership information role to public school districts regarding international student exchange visitors. The superintendent will forward complaints about an organization to the organization involved. When appropriate, the superintendent will notify USIA or CSIET of complaints.

There is a legislative finding that unfair or deceptive acts or practices in trade or commerce related to the placement of or contracting for services to international student exchange visitors are violations of the Consumer Protection Act. Three additional practices are listed as unfair or deceptive acts affecting the public interest. They are misrepresentations regarding future services, misrepresentations regarding the host home, and placing a student in violation of section 3 of the act.

The child care agency licensing statute is clarified. Organizations which place exchange students or international student exchange visitors are specifically excluded from the definition of agency used in the child care licensing statute. Therefore, international student exchange visitor placement organizations are not subject to licensing by the Secretary of Social and Health Services.

***Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:*** The original bill contained provisions encouraging the Higher Education Coordinating Board and the State Board for Community College Education to take a leadership role in issues concerning international visitors in institutions of higher education.

The original bill did not contain the provision that organizations which are not listed by the Council on Standards of Educational Travel or designated by the United States Information Agency may be approved by the superintendent to place students in Washington public schools.

***Fiscal Note:*** Requested January 18, 1991.

***Effective Date of Substitute Bill:*** This act shall take effect January 1, 1992.

**Testimony For:** The legislation is necessary because of the increasing number of complaints from international exchange students. The demographics of the country and the world are changing. The legislation will provide regulation for international exchange students in Washington state. Standards adopted by Washington state should be consistent with uniform national standards. The legislation provides safety and accountability to the international exchange visitor placement programs in Washington state. The legislation will help students and help schools provide a better service. The provisions requiring the superintendent to provide a leadership role for international student exchange programs is needed. International students make a valuable contribution to the state of Washington.

**Testimony Against:** F-1 organizations which are not listed with the Council on Standards for Educational Travel or designated by the United States Information Agency should have an opportunity to place students in Washington public schools. (The substitute bill addressed this issue.)

**Witnesses:** Persons speaking in favor of the bill: Representative Karen Fraser, Prime Sponsor; Representative Elmira Forner; Mike Middleton; Cliff Julius, Washington Interscholastic Activities Association; Tim McDonald; Karen Tweet, Department of Social and Health Services; Denise Keegan (in favor with amendment); and Clark Sitzes, Sara Viccello, Steve Johnson, Bonnie Mortell, John Richards, members of the Washington International Student Exchange Coalition.