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SENATE BILL 5504

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State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senators Bauer, Bailey, Rinehart, Saling, Murray, Pelz, Gaspard, Patterson, A. Smith, Sutherland and L. Smith.

Read first time February 4, 1991. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to student teaching centers; adding new sections to  
2 chapter 28A.415 RCW; repealing RCW 28A.625.420; and making an  
3 appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that:

6 (a) Strong teacher preparation programs are vital to the success of  
7 the state's entire education system;

8 (b) Clinical field experiences, particularly student teaching, are  
9 critical to the developmental preparation of teacher candidates and to  
10 the success of teacher preparation programs;

11 (c) Schools, school districts, educational service districts, and  
12 institutions of higher education benefit mutually from cooperative  
13 relationships that provide teacher candidates with appropriate,  
14 necessary, and successful student teaching experiences that establish  
15 continuity between the theory and practice of teaching;

1 (d) Positive student teaching experiences result from the careful  
2 match between cooperating teachers and student teachers;

3 (e) Teacher candidates should have student teaching opportunities  
4 and other field experiences that are reflective of the diversity  
5 existing among schools and school districts state-wide; and

6 (f) School districts state-wide should have access to student  
7 teachers.

8 (2) Therefore, in support of quality, professional, research-based  
9 training of prospective teachers, it is the intent of the legislature  
10 to continue its support of evolving partnerships among schools, school  
11 districts, educational service districts, community colleges, and  
12 colleges and universities, that are:

13 (a) Benefiting the teaching profession;

14 (b) Enhancing the ability of all new teachers to assume initial  
15 teaching responsibilities with greater confidence and a higher level of  
16 training;

17 (c) Providing important and positive mentoring opportunities for  
18 experienced teachers; and

19 (d) Strengthening cooperation and communication between the  
20 precollegiate and collegiate sectors of the state education system.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires  
22 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout sections 3  
23 through 9 of this act.

24 (1) "Cooperating organizations" means that at least one school  
25 district, one college or university, and one educational service  
26 district are involved jointly with the development of a student  
27 teaching center.

28 (2) "Cooperating teacher" means a teacher who holds a continuing  
29 certificate and supervises and coaches a student teacher.

1 (3) "Field experience" means opportunities for observation,  
2 tutoring, microteaching, extended practicums, and clinical and  
3 laboratory experiences which do not fall within the meaning of student  
4 teaching.

5 (4) "School setting" means a classroom in a public, common school  
6 in the state of Washington.

7 (5) "Student teacher" means a candidate for initial teacher  
8 certification who is in a state board of education-approved, or  
9 regionally or nationally accredited teacher preparation program in a  
10 school setting as part of the field-based component of their  
11 preparation program.

12 (6) "Student teaching" means the full quarter or semester in a  
13 school setting during which the student teacher observes the  
14 cooperating teacher, participates in instructional activities, and  
15 assumes both part-time and full-time teaching responsibilities under  
16 the supervision of the cooperating teacher.

17 (7) "Student teaching center" means the program established to  
18 provide student teachers in a geographic region of the state with  
19 special support and training as part of their teacher preparation  
20 program.

21 (8) "Supervisor or university supervisor" means the regular or  
22 adjunct faculty member, or college or university-approved designee, who  
23 assists and supervises the work of cooperating teachers and student  
24 teachers.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) Cooperating teachers shall provide  
26 a source of continuing and sustained assistance, coaching, and support  
27 for student teachers, and may participate with supervisors in  
28 evaluating student teachers, and shall submit recommendations to the  
29 institutions of higher education respecting the competency of the

1 student teacher. Cooperating teachers shall collaborate with their  
2 school principals respecting the support, training, and assistance they  
3 provide to student teachers.

4 (2) All student teachers from an institution of higher education  
5 whose preparation program has been approved by the state board of  
6 education, or has been regionally or nationally accredited, shall be  
7 provided a cooperating teacher.

8 (3) Cooperating teachers will be appointed by school districts in  
9 a joint selection process with the institutions of higher education.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Salary stipends for cooperating teachers  
11 shall be paid through supplemental contracts under RCW 28A.400.200(4)  
12 and as provided in the state operating appropriations act.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The provisions of sections 3 and 4 of  
14 this act shall apply to sections 6 through 9 of this act.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The state board of education, from  
16 appropriated funds, shall establish a network of student teaching  
17 centers to support the continuing development of the field-based  
18 component of teacher preparation programs. At least one center shall  
19 be established in every educational service district region. The  
20 purpose of the training centers is to:

21 (1) Expand opportunities for student teacher placements in school  
22 districts state-wide, with an emphasis on those populations and  
23 locations that are unserved or underserved;

24 (2) Provide cooperating teachers for all student teachers during  
25 their student internship for up to two academic quarters;

1 (3) Enhance the student teaching component of teacher preparation  
2 programs, including a placement of student teachers in special  
3 education and multi-ethnic school settings; and

4 (4) Expand access to each other and opportunities for collaboration  
5 in teacher education between colleges and universities and school  
6 districts.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Funds for the student teaching centers  
8 shall be allocated by the superintendent of public instruction among  
9 the educational service district regions on the basis of student  
10 teaching placements. The fiscal agent for each center shall be either  
11 an educational service district or a state institution of higher  
12 education. Prospective fiscal agents shall document to the state board  
13 of education the following information:

14 (1) The existing or proposed center was developed jointly through  
15 a process including participation by at least one school district, one  
16 college or university, and one educational service district;

17 (2) Primary administration for each center shall be the  
18 responsibility of one or more of the cooperating organizations;

19 (3) Assurance that the training center program provides appropriate  
20 and necessary training in observation, supervision, and assistance  
21 skills and techniques for:

22 (a) Cooperating teachers;

23 (b) Other school building personnel; and

24 (c) School district employees.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The student teaching centers shall be an  
26 alternative means of placing teachers into school districts throughout  
27 the state. Nothing in sections 1 through 9 of this act or RCW  
28 28A.405.450 precludes a higher education institution that is not a

1 participant in a training center from placing student teachers into a  
2 district that may be participating formally with other institutions in  
3 a student teaching center program, or placing student teachers into  
4 districts pursuant to an agreement between the institution and  
5 district.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Field experiences may be provided  
7 through a student teaching center. The cost of providing such  
8 experiences and opportunities shall be the sole responsibility of the  
9 participants cooperating in the operation of the center.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** The state board of education and the  
11 superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules as necessary  
12 under chapter 34.05 RCW to carry out the purposes of sections 1 through  
13 9 of this act.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** RCW 28A.625.420 and 1990 1st ex.s. c 10  
15 s 7 are each repealed.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** Sections 1 through 10 of this act are  
17 each added to chapter 28A.415 RCW.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** The sum of two million three hundred  
19 sixty 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 this act.