
SENATE BILL 5593

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

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By Senators Craswell, Rasmussen, Bailey, Conner, Metcalf, Anderson, Stratton, Oke, Erwin, L. Smith and McCaslin.

Read first time February 11, 1991. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to private schools; amending RCW 28A.195.010,
2 28A.195.030, and 28A.195.060; and adding a new section to chapter
3 28A.195 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.195
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) "Approved private school" shall mean a state-approved private
8 school or a church-approved private school

9 (2) "Church-approved private school" shall mean one that is an
10 integral and inseparable part of a church ministry, offers a structured
11 program of academic instruction, and is approved by the governing body
12 of the sponsoring church.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.195.010 and 1990 c 33 s 176 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 The legislature hereby recognizes that state-approved private
4 schools should be subject only to those minimum state controls
5 necessary to insure the health and safety of all the students in the
6 state and to insure a sufficient basic education to meet usual
7 graduation requirements. The state, any agency or official thereof,
8 shall not restrict or dictate any specific educational or other
9 programs for state-approved private schools except as hereinafter in
10 this section provided.

11 Principals of state-approved private schools or superintendents of
12 state-approved private school districts shall file each year with the
13 state superintendent of public instruction a statement certifying that
14 the minimum requirements hereinafter set forth are being met, noting
15 any deviations. After review of the statement, the state
16 superintendent will notify schools or school districts of those
17 deviations which must be corrected. In case of major deviations, the
18 school or school district may request and the state board of education
19 may grant provisional status for one year in order that the school or
20 school district may take action to meet the requirements. Minimum
21 requirements shall be as follows:

22 (1) The minimum school year for instructional purposes shall
23 consist of no less than one hundred eighty school days or the
24 equivalent in annual minimum program hour offerings as prescribed in
25 RCW 28A.150.220.

26 (2) The school day shall be the same as that required in RCW
27 28A.150.030 and 28A.150.220, except that the percentages of total
28 program hour offerings as prescribed in RCW 28A.150.220 for basic
29 skills, work skills, and optional subjects and activities shall not

1 apply to state-approved private schools or state-approved private
2 sectarian schools.

3 (3) All classroom teachers shall hold appropriate Washington state
4 certification except as follows:

5 (a) Teachers for religious courses or courses for which no
6 counterpart exists in public schools shall not be required to obtain a
7 state certificate to teach those courses.

8 (b) In exceptional cases, people of unusual competence but without
9 certification may teach students so long as a certified person
10 exercises general supervision. Annual written statements shall be
11 submitted to the office of the superintendent of public instruction
12 reporting and explaining such circumstances.

13 (4) (~~An approved~~) A state-approved private school may operate an
14 extension program for parents, guardians, or persons having legal
15 custody of a child to teach children in their custody. The extension
16 program shall require at a minimum that:

17 (a) The parent, guardian, or custodian be under the supervision of
18 an employee of the (~~approved~~) state-approved private school who is
19 certified under chapter 28A.410 RCW;

20 (b) The planning by the certified person and the parent, guardian,
21 or person having legal custody include objectives consistent with this
22 subsection and subsections (1), (2), (5), (6), and (7) of this section;

23 (c) The certified person spend a minimum average each month of one
24 contact hour per week with each student under his or her supervision
25 who is enrolled in the (~~approved~~) state-approved private school
26 extension program;

27 (d) Each student's progress be evaluated by the certified person;
28 and

1 (e) The certified employee shall not supervise more than thirty
2 students enrolled in the (~~approved~~) state-approved private school's
3 extension program.

4 (5) Appropriate measures shall be taken to safeguard all permanent
5 records against loss or damage.

6 (6) The physical facilities of the school or district shall be
7 adequate to meet the program offered by the school or district:
8 PROVIDED, That each school building shall meet reasonable health and
9 fire safety requirements. A residential dwelling of the parent,
10 guardian, or custodian shall be deemed to be an adequate physical
11 facility when a parent, guardian, or person having legal custody is
12 instructing his or her child under subsection (4) of this section.

13 (7) State-approved private school curriculum shall include
14 instruction of the basic skills of occupational education, science,
15 mathematics, language, social studies, history, health, reading,
16 writing, spelling, and the development of appreciation of art and
17 music, all in sufficient units for meeting state board of education
18 graduation requirements.

19 (8) Each school or school district shall be required to maintain
20 up-to-date policy statements related to the administration and
21 operation of the school or school district.

22 All decisions of policy, philosophy, selection of books, teaching
23 material, curriculum, except as in subsection (7) above provided,
24 school rules and administration, or other matters not specifically
25 referred to in this section, shall be the responsibility of the
26 administration and administrators of the particular state-approved
27 private school involved.

28 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.195.030 and 1974 ex.s. c 92 s 4 are each amended
29 to read as follows:

1 Any state-approved private school may appeal the actions of the
2 state superintendent of public instruction or state board of education
3 as provided in chapter 34.05 RCW.

4 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.195.060 and 1975 1st ex.s. c 275 s 70 are each
5 amended to read as follows:

6 It shall be the duty of the administrative or executive authority
7 of every state-approved private school in this state to report to the
8 educational service district superintendent on or before the thirtieth
9 day of June in each year, on a form to be furnished, such information
10 as may be required by the superintendent of public instruction, to make
11 complete the records of education work pertaining to all children
12 residing within the state.