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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5885**

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**State of Washington**

**52nd Legislature**

**1991 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Children & Family Services (originally sponsored by Senators L. Smith and Stratton).

Read first time March 6, 1991.

1       AN ACT Relating to community grants for programs for young  
2 adolescents; adding new sections to chapter 43.63A RCW; making an  
3 appropriation; and providing an expiration date.

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

5       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.**       (1) Adolescence is a time of major  
6 developmental change. It is essential that adolescents establish an  
7 individual identity with unique goals and aspirations, emancipate from  
8 parents and caregivers physically and emotionally, and develop skills  
9 to become self-sufficient in order to become a successful adult.  
10 Increasing numbers of adolescents are having trouble successfully  
11 reaching adulthood, leaving them unable to function independently and  
12 causing great concern among parents, social services and health  
13 providers, educators, law enforcement, and the community at large.  
14 Children are our most valuable natural resource. A skilled and  
15 talented work force is businesses' most valuable resource. Children

1 who drop out of school, are addicted to alcohol or other drugs, or  
2 become parents before they are ready to parent find it increasingly  
3 difficult to become successful, self-sufficient adults and productive  
4 members of the work force. This valuable work force is critical to a  
5 productive future for Washington. While the causes for these problems  
6 are complex, a central factor is extensive societal change that creates  
7 a need for adults to act as mentors and appropriate role models to  
8 guide children's growth and development.

9 (2) It is the intent of the legislature that the community become  
10 more capable of providing ample opportunity for success. The  
11 legislature recognizes that just as early childhood is a critical  
12 juncture in establishing the foundation for positive development, young  
13 adolescence is a critical juncture when young people form values and  
14 make fateful choices about what qualities they want in friends, how  
15 they will treat their bodies, what they expect from parents and adults,  
16 and how they will fit into the community and world.

17 (3) The legislature finds that these choices have significant  
18 social, health, and financial consequences for adolescents, their  
19 families, communities, and the state. The legislature further finds  
20 that enabling and motivating young adolescents to make these choices  
21 wisely is essential to improving the life chances of all adolescents in  
22 the state and to preventing such costly social and health problems as  
23 substance abuse, suicide, early sexual activity, adolescent pregnancy,  
24 sexually transmitted disease, crime, delinquency, school dropout,  
25 reduced earning capacity, and family dysfunction.

26 (4) The legislature finds that by providing the opportunity and  
27 incentive for the development of family and community strategies that  
28 enable and motivate adolescents to make choices wisely is essential to  
29 improving their success as adults and preventing costly social and  
30 health problems. Young adolescents are at a juncture between childhood

1 and adolescence that makes them particularly receptive to well-defined  
2 activities that build their personal skills, self-esteem, and self-  
3 worth and will help them plan for the future and understand their goals  
4 and aspirations. Values such as honesty, good citizenship, a positive  
5 work ethic, and personal integrity are essential to their growth and  
6 development.

7 (5) The pilot projects established in sections 2 through 6 of this  
8 act are intended to mobilize communities to:

9 (a) Examine how well the community is providing middle-school-age  
10 youth the self-esteem, knowledge, skills, and motivation they need to  
11 make healthy choices and succeed in life;

12 (b) Plan and implement improvements in the community's system of  
13 programs and activities targeting middle-school-age youth and their  
14 families for success;

15 (c) Develop incentive programs to recognize and reward adolescents  
16 who are making healthy choices, are developing skills and abilities,  
17 and are contributing to their communities; and

18 (d) Enhance parent and young adolescent interaction by strongly  
19 promoting parental involvement in programs and services.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires  
21 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout sections 1  
22 through 8 of this act.

23 (1) "Community" means a political subdivision, a group of political  
24 subdivisions, or a geographic area within a political subdivision in  
25 the state.

26 (2) "Young adolescent" means middle or junior high school age  
27 youth.

28 (3) "Adolescent" means middle, junior high, and high school age  
29 youth.

1 (4) "Parent" means father, mother, stepfather, stepmother,  
2 grandparent, or guardian.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The department shall establish and  
4 administer a community-based program targeting young adolescents for  
5 teen success. The department is authorized to award grants to  
6 communities for the planning and improvement of the community's system  
7 of programs, practices, policies, and activities to provide young  
8 adolescents the knowledge, self-worth, skills, motivation, self  
9 discipline, and family and community support necessary to make healthy  
10 choices and succeed in adolescence and throughout life.

11 (2) The director shall appoint a committee to evaluate grant  
12 applicants' fulfillment of the requirements under section 5 of this act  
13 and recommend projects for approval. One representative shall be  
14 appointed to the committee from each of the following: The department  
15 of community development, the office of the superintendent of public  
16 instruction, the department of health, the department of social and  
17 health services, the employment security department, and the  
18 administrator for the courts. Three members shall be appointed from  
19 professionals whose experience is in child and adolescent development.  
20 Three members shall be appointed from parents of young adolescents.  
21 One female young adolescent and one male young adolescent shall also be  
22 appointed. The department shall consider the recommendations of the  
23 committee in making grant awards.

24 (3) The department may solicit and accept grants and donations from  
25 public and private sources for the program.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) Pursuant to section 3 of this act,  
27 the department shall, from funds appropriated for this purpose, award

1 eight grants to applicants representing diverse geographic locations,  
2 including both urban and rural communities, throughout the state.

3 (2) The department shall distribute the initial grants by August  
4 31, 1991.

5 (3) Initial projects may be conducted for up to six years, if funds  
6 are so provided. Subject to department approval and continued state  
7 funding, projects initially funded for two years may be extended for a  
8 total period not to exceed six years. Future funding shall be  
9 conditioned on a positive evaluation of the project.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The goal of the pilot projects shall  
11 be to increase adolescent well-being and self-worth as evidenced by  
12 indicators of adolescent health and well-being including, but not  
13 limited to: Indicators of drug and alcohol abuse; indicators of tobacco  
14 use; suicide; early sexual activity; adolescent pregnancy; sexually  
15 transmitted disease; crime; delinquency; school dropout; reduced  
16 earning capacity; and family dysfunction.

17 (2) The pilot projects under section 3 of this act shall be based  
18 upon the following principles:

19 (a) Only a community, multidimensional approach to young adolescent  
20 success is likely to have a significant impact on the overall rate of  
21 adolescent success in the community.

22 (b) Each community has unique needs and circumstances regarding  
23 young adolescents and their families, and therefore communities should  
24 design their own projects.

25 (c) New, positive, innovative programs or activities that emphasize  
26 integration of existing positive programs or activities that involve  
27 young adolescents and their families should be developed.

28 (d) The focus should be on the periods of transition between  
29 elementary school and middle or junior high school, and between middle

1 or junior high school and high school, which are particularly important  
2 to adolescent success.

3 (3) Each project shall include:

4 (a) Role modeling, business linkage, family life education  
5 involving young adolescents and parents, community service such as  
6 volunteerism, and citizenship learning.

7 (b) Development or improvement of community programs in at least  
8 three of the following areas, including steps to link these programs to  
9 other programs in the community related to young adolescent success:

10 (i) Tobacco, drug, and alcohol resistance education;

11 (ii) Peer counseling and support;

12 (iii) Expanding recreational and social opportunities for all young  
13 adolescents in the community; and

14 (iv) Education success.

15 (c) A family involvement component, which shall include at least  
16 parent education in preparing young adolescents for adolescent success,  
17 with attention to involving all families of young adolescents  
18 regardless of ethnicity, home language, economic status, or educational  
19 background.

20 (d) Development of an incentive program to reward adolescents for  
21 making healthy lifestyle choices and contributing to their communities.

22 The incentive program shall:

23 (i) Be open to all adolescents in the community;

24 (ii) Use locally developed resources to provide rewards; and

25 (iii) Use a system of peer review to determine the granting of the  
26 rewards. This system shall be based on a policy developed locally with  
27 the involvement of young adolescents, older adolescents, parents,  
28 businesses, service organizations, churches, local government, and the  
29 local school district.

1 (4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to mean that a  
2 particular curriculum or program must be used. However, pilot projects  
3 are encouraged to use curricula, programs, and activities that have  
4 been evaluated and determined to be successful. The curricula,  
5 programs, and activities shall address the goals of this section.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Applications for grants under section 4  
7 of this act shall be submitted by July 31, 1991. Each application  
8 shall:

9 (1) Define the community requesting funding.

10 (2) Designate a lead agency or organization.

11 (3) Describe the current system of programs, activities, and  
12 services for young adolescents and their families in the community, and  
13 describe how it is envisioned the project will contribute to the  
14 integration and expansion of this system and the achievement of program  
15 goals.

16 (4) Document that a local advisory board has been created for the  
17 project after wide solicitation for membership and a fair selection  
18 process has been used. The advisory board shall have twelve members  
19 representing a broad cross-section of community members and shall  
20 include, at minimum, one male and one female adolescent.

21 (5) Include written assurance that each member of the advisory  
22 board will participate in a technical training and assistance program  
23 and as the project progresses oversee:

24 (a) Development of a community mission statement and community  
25 goals regarding preparing young adolescents for success;

26 (b) Assessment of young adolescent needs in the community;

27 (c) Development and implementation of a plan for the activities  
28 specified under section 5(3) of this act; and

29 (d) Ongoing local evaluation of the project.

1 (6) Include written assurance that all parties involved will work  
2 cooperatively during the term of the pilot project.

3 (7) Include written assurance that the project will cooperate with  
4 the program evaluation provided under section 9 of this act by  
5 providing requested data and information.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) The department of community  
7 development shall report to the legislature on the progress of the  
8 young adolescent success program by January 1 of each odd-numbered  
9 year. The first report shall be submitted by January 1, 1993.

10 (2) Each organization receiving a grant under sections 2 through 6  
11 of this act shall submit an annual report to the department of  
12 community development on the progress of the pilot project, including  
13 the detail of expenditures of public moneys and the results of ongoing  
14 local evaluation of the project, as a condition of receipt of continued  
15 funding. The department shall also develop a tool for use in the local  
16 ongoing evaluation of the projects.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The department shall contract with an  
18 independent entity to conduct an evaluation of the effectiveness of the  
19 projects established in sections 2 through 6 of this act. The  
20 evaluation shall, at minimum, assess progress on the criteria  
21 identified in section 5(1) of this act and analyze which program  
22 elements were important to project success, taking into account the  
23 effect of other factors in the community on project success. The  
24 evaluation shall also identify any barriers to project success that may  
25 be caused by local, state, or federal rules, regulations, policies, or  
26 procedures. The January 1, 1995, department report on the young  
27 adolescent success program shall include preliminary results of the  
28 evaluation. The January 1, 1997, department report shall include final



1 results of the evaluation and recommendations for a state-wide  
2 community-based young adolescent success program.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** (1) The sum of nine hundred thousand  
4 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from  
5 the general fund to the department of community development for the  
6 biennium ending June 30, 1993, for the purposes of this act.

7 (2) Of this amount, eight hundred thousand dollars is provided  
8 solely for award grants provided by section 4 of this act.

9 (3) Of this amount, one hundred thousand dollars, or as much  
10 thereof as may be necessary, is provided solely for the evaluation  
11 provided by section 9 of this act.

12 (4) Funds provided under this act shall not be expended for medical  
13 or pharmaceutical services or referrals or contraceptive services or  
14 referrals funded pursuant to chapter 74.09 RCW. Funds appropriated in  
15 this act shall not be supplanted for existing family planning services.  
16 Sexuality education programs for young adolescents under section 4 of  
17 this act shall not include the dispensing of contraceptives or showing  
18 young adolescents how to use them, through programs or materials.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** Sections 1 through 8 of this act are  
20 each added to chapter 43.63A RCW.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** This act shall expire June 30, 1998.