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HOUSE BILL 1398

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State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Representatives Ogden, Jacobsen, Hansen, Springer, Chandler, Edmondson, Grant, Ludwig, Rayburn, Basich, Wineberry, Shin, Brough, Finkbeiner and J. Kohl

Read first time 01/27/93. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to literacy in mathematics, science, and  
2 technology; creating new sections; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds:

5 (a) Mathematics, science, and technology subtly but profoundly  
6 impact the lives of Washington state residents. In the coming years  
7 mathematics, science, and technology will become socially pervasive and  
8 important with growing concerns about health, environmental protection,  
9 conservation, energy supply, and industrial growth;

10 (b) There is consensus that the most likely leading industries in  
11 the twenty-first century will be in microelectronics, biotechnology,  
12 new materials industries, civilian aviation, telecommunications,  
13 robotics, and computer-related technologies. This means that literacy  
14 in mathematics, science, and technology will become increasingly  
15 important to the economic future of Washington state; and

16 (c) National education goal number four establishes that by the  
17 year 2000, United States students will be first in the world in science  
18 and mathematics achievement.

1 (2) The legislature recognizes that change is not optional and  
2 believes that only if literacy in mathematics, science, and technology  
3 is expanded to include all segments of the population can Washington  
4 state build upon existing public and private sector resources to take  
5 full advantage of the projected leading industries for the twenty-first  
6 century and achieve national education goal number four.

7 (3) Broad public literacy in mathematics, science, and technology  
8 will be necessary to sustain from one generation to the next a dynamic  
9 future for the citizens of Washington. However, certain obstacles must  
10 be addressed to realize this goal:

11 (a) Widespread public discomfort with mathematics, science, and  
12 technology;

13 (b) Prevailing public ignorance of the importance of mathematics,  
14 science, and technology throughout our lives; and

15 (c) Broad public resistance to recognizing the legitimacy of  
16 mathematics, science, and technology in contributing toward solving  
17 societal issues.

18 (4) It is the intent of the legislature to develop a long-range,  
19 comprehensive mathematics, science, and technology literacy program  
20 that reaches into all segments of society and supports a vision in  
21 which Washington state is a place where all citizens demonstrate,  
22 value, and support literacy in mathematics, science, and technology.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Washington state institute for  
24 public policy shall conduct a study that includes, but is not limited  
25 to:

26 (a) An analysis of the benefits and disadvantages to the state of  
27 achieving or not achieving broad social literacy in mathematics,  
28 science, and technology; and

29 (b) A review of existing or anticipated efforts in Washington state  
30 pertaining to enhancing the quality of mathematics, science, and  
31 technology instruction in the common schools or higher education  
32 institutions of the state, or increasing the level of broad public  
33 literacy in mathematics, science, and technology in the state.

34 (2) The study shall include an analysis of the feasibility and  
35 desirability of creating a Washington state institute for science and  
36 society that:

37 (a) Would promote broad-based awareness and understanding of the  
38 importance of mathematics, science, and technology in our lives and

1 support the implementation of a long-range, comprehensive mathematics,  
2 science, and technology literacy program;

3 (b) Could coordinate collaboration and communication between  
4 existing and anticipated efforts in the state to enhance the quality of  
5 mathematics, science, and technology instruction and elevate the level  
6 of mathematics, science, and technology literacy; and

7 (c) Could play a vital role in sustaining systemic change in the  
8 delivery of mathematics, science, and technology education and  
9 sustaining public literacy in mathematics, science, and technology.

10 (3) The analysis under subsection (2) of this section shall  
11 include:

12 (a) An assessment of whether a state institute for science and  
13 society is an appropriate means toward building and sustaining a social  
14 culture of awareness, appreciation, understanding, and support for  
15 mathematics, science, and technology education and literacy;

16 (b) An assessment of the kind of mission and focus that would guide  
17 a state institute for science and society, including groups for  
18 priority attention and appropriate programs, services, and activities;

19 (c) Options pertaining to a governmental structure for and location  
20 of a state institute for science and society; and

21 (d) Options for funding a state institute for science and society.

22 (4) The institute for public policy shall submit a report of its  
23 findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the legislature and the  
24 governor not later than December 1, 1994.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of . . . . . dollars, or as  
26 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium  
27 ending June 30, 1995, from the state general fund to the Washington  
28 state institute for public policy to conduct the study under section 2  
29 of this act.

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