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ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 1708

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State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Representatives Peery, Ballard, Dorn, Brough, Jones, Pruitt, Cothorn, Basich, Hansen, Roland, Fuhrman, Jacobsen, Ogden, Karahalios, J. Kohl, H. Myers and Johanson

Read first time 02/05/93. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to the commission on student learning; amending RCW  
2 28A.630.885; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.630.885 and 1992 c 141 s 202 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 ~~((+2))~~ (1) The Washington commission on student learning is hereby  
7 established. The primary purposes of the commission are to identify  
8 what all students need to know and be able to do based on the student  
9 learning goals of the governor's council on education reform and  
10 funding, to develop student assessment and school accountability  
11 systems, and to take other steps necessary to develop a performance-  
12 based education system. The commission shall include three members of  
13 the state board of education, three members appointed by the governor  
14 before July 1, 1992, and ~~((three))~~ five members appointed no later than  
15 ~~((February))~~ March 1, 1993, by the governor elected in the November  
16 1992 election. The governor shall appoint a chair from the commission  
17 members, and fill any vacancies of gubernatorial appointments that may  
18 occur. The state board of education shall fill any vacancies of state  
19 board of education appointments that may occur. In making the

1 appointments, educators, business leaders, and parents shall be  
2 represented, and nominations from state-wide education, business, and  
3 parent organizations shall be requested. Efforts shall be made to  
4 ensure that the commission reflects the cultural diversity of the  
5 state's K-12 student population and that the major geographic regions  
6 in the state are represented. Appointees shall be qualified  
7 individuals who are supportive of educational restructuring, who have  
8 a positive record of service, and who will devote sufficient time to  
9 the responsibilities of the commission to ensure that the objectives of  
10 the commission are achieved.

11 ~~((+3))~~ (2) The commission shall begin its substantive work subject  
12 to ~~((subsection (1) of this section))~~ section 202(1), chapter 141, Laws  
13 of 1992.

14 ~~((+4))~~ (3) The commission shall establish technical advisory  
15 committees. Membership of the technical advisory committees shall  
16 include, but not necessarily be limited to, professionals from the  
17 office of the superintendent of public instruction and the state board  
18 of education, and other state and local educational practitioners and  
19 student assessment specialists.

20 ~~((+5))~~ (4) The commission, with the assistance of the technical  
21 advisory committees, shall:

22 (a) Identify what all elementary and secondary students need to  
23 know and be able to do. At a minimum, these essential academic  
24 learning requirements shall include reading, writing, speaking,  
25 science, history, geography, mathematics, and critical thinking. In  
26 developing these essential academic learning requirements, the  
27 commission shall incorporate the student learning goals identified by  
28 the council on education reform and funding;

29 (b) By December 1, 1995, present to the state board of education  
30 and superintendent of public instruction a state-wide academic  
31 assessment system for use in the elementary grades designed to  
32 determine if each student has mastered the essential academic learning  
33 requirements identified in (a) of this subsection. The academic  
34 assessment system shall include a variety of methodologies, including  
35 performance-based measures. The assessment system shall be designed so  
36 that the results under the assessment system are used by educators as  
37 tools to evaluate instructional practices, and to initiate appropriate  
38 educational support for students who do not master the essential  
39 academic learning requirements. Mastery of each component of the

1 essential academic learning requirements shall be required before  
2 students progress in subsequent components of the essential academic  
3 learning requirements. The state board of education and superintendent  
4 of public instruction shall implement the elementary academic  
5 assessment system beginning in the 1996-97 school year, unless the  
6 legislature takes action to delay or prevent implementation of the  
7 assessment system and essential academic learning requirements. The  
8 state board of education and superintendent of public instruction may  
9 modify the academic assessment system, as needed, in subsequent school  
10 years;

11 (c) By December 1, 1996, present to the state board of education  
12 and superintendent of public instruction a state-wide academic  
13 assessment system for use in the secondary grades designed to determine  
14 if each student has mastered the essential academic learning  
15 requirements identified for secondary students in (a) of this  
16 subsection. The academic assessment system shall use a variety of  
17 methodologies, including performance-based measures, to determine if  
18 students have mastered the essential academic learning requirements,  
19 and shall lead to a certificate of mastery. The certificate of mastery  
20 shall be required for graduation. The assessment system shall be  
21 designed so that the results are used by educators to evaluate  
22 instructional practices, and to initiate appropriate educational  
23 support for students who do not master the essential academic learning  
24 requirements. The commission shall recommend to the state board of  
25 education whether the certificate of mastery should take the place of  
26 the graduation requirements or be required for graduation in addition  
27 to graduation requirements. The state board of education and  
28 superintendent of public instruction shall implement the secondary  
29 academic assessment system beginning in the 1997-98 school year, unless  
30 the legislature takes action to delay or prevent implementation of the  
31 assessment system and essential academic learning requirements. The  
32 state board of education and superintendent of public instruction may  
33 modify the assessment system, as needed, in subsequent school years;

34 (d) Consider methods to address the unique needs of special  
35 education students when developing the assessments in (b) and (c) of  
36 this subsection;

37 (e) Develop strategies that will assist educators in helping  
38 students master the essential academic learning requirements;

1 (f) Establish a center the primary role of which is to plan,  
2 implement, and evaluate a high quality professional development  
3 process. The quality schools center shall: Have an advisory council  
4 composed of educators, parents, and community and business leaders; use  
5 best practices research regarding instruction, management, curriculum  
6 development, and assessment; coordinate its activities with the office  
7 of the superintendent of public instruction and the state board of  
8 education; employ and contract with individuals who have a commitment  
9 to quality reform; prepare a six-year plan to be updated every two  
10 years; and be able to accept resources and funding from private and  
11 public sources;

12 (g) Develop recommendations for the repeal or amendment of federal,  
13 state, and local laws, rules, budgetary language, regulations, and  
14 other factors that inhibit schools from adopting strategies designed to  
15 help students achieve the essential academic learning requirements;

16 (h) Develop recommendations on the time, support, and resources,  
17 including technical assistance, needed by schools and school districts  
18 to help students achieve the essential academic learning requirements.  
19 These recommendations shall include an estimate for the legislature,  
20 superintendent of public instruction, and governor on the expected cost  
21 of implementing the elementary and secondary academic assessment  
22 systems during the 1995-97 biennium and beyond;

23 (i) Develop recommendations for consideration by the higher  
24 education coordinating board for adopting college and university  
25 entrance requirements that would assist schools in adopting strategies  
26 designed to help students achieve the essential academic learning  
27 requirements;

28 (j) By December 1, 1996, recommend to the legislature, state board  
29 of education, and superintendent of public instruction a state-wide  
30 accountability system to evaluate accurately and fairly the level of  
31 learning occurring in individual schools and school districts. The  
32 commission also shall recommend to the legislature steps that should be  
33 taken to assist school districts and schools in which learning is  
34 significantly below expected levels of performance as measured by the  
35 academic assessment systems established under this section;

36 (k) Report annually by December 1st to the legislature and the  
37 state board of education on the progress, findings, and recommendations  
38 of the commission; and

39 (l) Complete other tasks, as appropriate.

1       (~~(6)~~) (5) The commission shall coordinate its activities with the  
2 state board of education and the office of the superintendent of public  
3 instruction.

4       (~~(7)~~) (6) The commission shall seek advice broadly from the  
5 public and all interested educational organizations in the conduct of  
6 its work, including holding periodic regional public hearings.

7       (~~(8)~~) (7) The commission shall select an entity to provide staff  
8 support and the office of financial management shall contract with that  
9 entity. The commission may direct the office of financial management  
10 to enter into subcontracts with school districts, teachers, higher  
11 education faculty, state agencies, business organizations, and other  
12 individuals and organizations to assist the commission in its  
13 deliberations.

14       (~~(9)~~) (8) Members of the commission shall be reimbursed for  
15 travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

16       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
17 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
18 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take  
19 effect immediately.

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