
HOUSE BILL 1708

State of Washington

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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. In making the appointments, educators, business leaders, and
18 parents shall be represented, and nominations from state-wide
19 education, business, and parent organizations shall be requested.

1 Efforts shall be made to ensure that the commission reflects the
2 cultural diversity of the state's K-12 student population and that the
3 major geographic regions in the state are represented. Appointees
4 shall be qualified individuals who are supportive of educational
5 restructuring, who have a positive record of service, and who will
6 devote sufficient time to the responsibilities of the commission to
7 ensure that the objectives of the commission are achieved.

8 ~~((+3+))~~ (2) The commission shall begin its substantive work subject
9 to ~~((subsection (1) of this section))~~ section 202(1), chapter 141, Laws
10 of 1992.

11 ~~((+4+))~~ (3) The commission shall establish technical advisory
12 committees. Membership of the technical advisory committees shall
13 include, but not necessarily be limited to, professionals from the
14 office of the superintendent of public instruction and the state board
15 of education, and other state and local educational practitioners and
16 student assessment specialists.

17 ~~((+5+))~~ (4) The commission, with the assistance of the technical
18 advisory committees, shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 (f) Establish a center the primary role of which is to plan,
37 implement, and evaluate a high quality professional development
38 process. The quality schools center shall: Have an advisory council
39 composed of educators, parents, and community and business leaders; use

1 best practices research regarding instruction, management, curriculum
2 development, and assessment; coordinate its activities with the office
3 of the superintendent of public instruction and the state board of
4 education; employ and contract with individuals who have a commitment
5 to quality reform; prepare a six-year plan to be updated every two
6 years; and be able to accept resources and funding from private and
7 public sources;

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

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

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

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

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

35 (l) Complete other tasks, as appropriate.

36 ((+6)) (5) The commission shall coordinate its activities with the
37 state board of education and the office of the superintendent of public
38 instruction.

1 (~~(7)~~) (6) The commission shall seek advice broadly from the
2 public and all interested educational organizations in the conduct of
3 its work, including holding periodic regional public hearings.

4 (~~(8)~~) (7) The commission shall select an entity to provide staff
5 support and the office of financial management shall contract with that
6 entity. The commission may direct the office of financial management
7 to enter into subcontracts with school districts, teachers, higher
8 education faculty, state agencies, business organizations, and other
9 individuals and organizations to assist the commission in its
10 deliberations.

11 (~~(9)~~) (8) Members of the commission shall be reimbursed for
12 travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

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

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