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HOUSE BILL 2765

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State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Representatives Shin, Dorn, Quall, Wineberry, Holm, Pruitt, Basich and Orr

Read first time 01/24/94. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to vocational skills centers; creating new  
2 sections; making an appropriation; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that many teens  
5 who have dropped out of high school possess little motivation to return  
6 to a traditional high school setting. Teens with children often  
7 receive public assistance and do not have the skills or education to  
8 secure employment to support their basic needs. Inadequate job skills,  
9 the lack of a high school diploma, and limited access to child care  
10 prevent high school-age mothers from leaving public assistance to enter  
11 the work force.

12 (2) The legislature further finds that providing dropouts with  
13 school-to-work transition options to increase job readiness, to work  
14 toward high school graduation, and to provide access to support  
15 services is an effective strategy to address the needs of secondary  
16 students who have dropped out of school.

17 (3) The legislature further finds that vocational skills centers  
18 are equipped to offer educational services to secondary students that  
19 emphasize successful school-to-work transition, life skills, parenting

1 education, and high school graduation. Vocational skills centers can  
2 best offer these services by making them available, for students not  
3 currently in school and for students enrolled in a full schedule at a  
4 high school, during hours other than normal school hours.

5 (4) The purpose of this act is to provide students with the job  
6 training, education, and support services necessary to achieve high  
7 school graduation and job readiness through the creation of extended  
8 day school-to-work transition projects at vocational skills centers.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) There is established in the office of  
10 the superintendent of public instruction an extended day school-to-work  
11 transition program. The program shall fund and coordinate five  
12 projects at vocational skills centers to provide extended day school-  
13 to-work transition options for secondary students who have dropped out,  
14 who are at risk of academic failure, and for students enrolled full  
15 time at a home high school.

16 (2) Goals of the program include:

17 (a) Identifying, recruiting, assessing, and enrolling teens who  
18 have dropped out of school or who are at risk of academic failure;

19 (b) Developing job-readiness skills, job retention skills, and high  
20 school completion competencies in secondary students using work-based  
21 learning;

22 (c) Equipping students with vocational skills and abilities  
23 consistent with entry level employment in their chosen career field;

24 (d) Preparing students to seek further education and training if  
25 advisable for their particular career field;

26 (e) Assisting students who have dropped out to reenter school to  
27 achieve their high school diploma; and

28 (f) Increasing vocational skills center programs' availability to  
29 students during other than normal school hours.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The superintendent of public instruction  
31 shall award grants to vocational skills centers for extended day  
32 school-to-work transition projects. Grants shall be awarded based on  
33 applications describing how the project will achieve the goals of the  
34 program pursuant to section 2 of this act.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of three hundred fifty thousand  
36 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for

1 the biennium ending June 30, 1995, from the general fund to the  
2 superintendent of public instruction for the purposes of this act.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act shall expire June 30, 1997.

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