

2 SSB 5555 - S AMD - 175

3 By Senators Stevens, Hargrove and Long

4 AMENDMENT ADOPTED; BILL FAILED - 3/17/97

5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
6 following:

7 NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. (1) The legislature recognizes the inherent  
8 and unalienable right and responsibility of the parents to provide for  
9 and ensure the health, education, and general well-being of their  
10 children. This chapter is intended to recognize that responsibility  
11 and to affirm the right of the parents to decide what their children  
12 learn and how they are taught in the common schools.

13 (2) This chapter defines the roles and obligations of school  
14 officials, administrators, staff, and teachers, in order to provide for  
15 better cooperation between the school district and the parents, to  
16 encourage mutual understanding and confidence, to secure a better  
17 education for all children enrolled in the public schools of this  
18 state, to otherwise assist the parents in the discharge of their  
19 parental responsibility to their children, and to assist the school  
20 system in the discharge of its responsibility to the parents.

21 (3) This act is not meant to be inclusive of all rights and  
22 responsibilities of parents with regard to education, only to address  
23 those issues where known conflict exists.

24 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. Unless the context clearly requires  
25 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this  
26 chapter.

27 (1) "Emergency situation" means a situation where the student may  
28 cause physical harm to himself, herself, or to others.

29 (2) "Experimental," "special," or "pilot" class or program means  
30 any class or program designed to explore or develop new or unproven  
31 teaching methods or techniques or a class or program of limited  
32 application to a selected group of students.

33 (3) "Group therapy" and "sensitivity training" mean group processes  
34 where the student's intimate and personal feelings, emotions, values,  
35 habits, or beliefs are openly exposed to the group or where emotions,

1 feelings, or attitudes are directed by one or more members of the group  
2 toward another member of the group, or where roles are assigned to  
3 pupils for the purpose of classifying, controlling, or predicting  
4 behavior.

5 (4) "Parent" means a biological, adoptive or foster parent, or  
6 legal guardian.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Parents have the right to know what their  
8 children are being taught.

9 (1) Each school district board of directors shall adopt policies  
10 and inform parents about their rights to inspect students' educational  
11 records, test results, any educational or other program of the  
12 district, and all instructional or other related materials, including  
13 teacher manuals, textbooks, films, tapes, supplementary materials, or  
14 computer programs.

15 Each school district board of directors shall adopt policies  
16 requiring parents to be notified of their right to excuse their child  
17 from any course or unit of study specifically about alcoholic  
18 stimulants or controlled substances, human sexuality education,  
19 education regarding sexually transmitted diseases including HIV or AIDS  
20 education, suicide education, or death education. The notice shall be  
21 distributed and returned by parents before these courses or units of  
22 study are taught. A form signed by the parent must be in each  
23 student's file.

24 (2) A student may not be placed in an experimental, special, or  
25 pilot class or program without written consent of a parent.

26 (3) Classes shall be held on school property, except for field  
27 trips that are necessarily and reasonably beneficial, that are related  
28 to the educational program of the student, that are afforded to all  
29 members of the class equally, and that are undertaken with the  
30 knowledge and written consent of a parent.

31 (4) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop model  
32 forms for school districts to permit parents to excuse their children  
33 from programs under this section.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The parents and the child shall have the  
35 right to privacy.

36 (1) A student may only be tested for intelligence quotient or  
37 proficiency in basic skills and academic subject matter. Any testing

1 or inquiry pertaining to a student's attitudes, habits, or values, the  
2 student's parent's attitudes, habits, or values, or other personal  
3 information pertaining to the student and the student's family,  
4 including personality inventories, value appraisals, psychological  
5 inventories, or diagnostic tests may be given only after consultation  
6 by school personnel with the parent and with the parent's written  
7 permission.

8 Any such tests shall be made available to a parent upon request,  
9 and the results of any test or inquiry and any notes, records, or  
10 written or taped memoranda regarding the test or inquiry shall be made  
11 available to the parents upon request.

12 (2) All records kept on a student must be provided to the parent  
13 upon request for the parent's observation, and copies thereof provided  
14 to the parent upon request at cost at the expense of the parent.  
15 Records may not be maintained on a student that are not relevant to  
16 academic achievement, except that records regarding disciplinary action  
17 shall be separately maintained.

18 (3) Employees and guests of a school district may not use  
19 psychotherapeutic techniques such as group therapy or sensitivity  
20 training without prior written permission of the parent.

21 (4) Except in an emergency situation, which may include death of a  
22 relative, a school may not use guidance counseling regarding a  
23 student's social, emotional, mental, or personal problems without  
24 written notification to the parent within three working days of such  
25 counseling. Parental notification is not to be construed as continuing  
26 beyond the specific subject of discussion during consultation, unless  
27 the parent gives written permission to expand the scope of counseling.  
28 A school district may allow a student to participate in limited  
29 guidance counseling without the prior written consent of the parent if  
30 the student expresses fear or distress that leads the counselor to  
31 believe there is a possibility that the child is experiencing child  
32 abuse or neglect as defined in RCW 26.44.020.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A parent has the right to be informed of  
34 student progress. A parent shall be apprised no less than three times  
35 during each school year, in writing, by the teacher or principal, of a  
36 student's progress in the basic skills. Such information as standing  
37 in the class and standing in relation to national norms shall also be  
38 provided to a parent upon request if available.

