

# COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

*Representative Don Carlson, Chair*

## BILL ANALYSIS

### HB 1878

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** Creating a parenting task force to study parent and education partnerships.

**BACKGROUND:** The 1995 National Education Goals Report states that increased family involvement is associated with desirable student achievement and behavioral outcomes. Positive outcomes of family involvement include: higher mathematics and reading scores; better report card grades; improved attendance; improved behavior; improved attitudes in middle and high school; reduced likelihood that a student will repeat a grade or be in the lower half of his/her class; and decreased likelihood that a student will be suspended or expelled from school.

The U.S. Department of Education reported in its publication, "Strong Families, Strong Schools," that (1) teachers rated strengthening parental involvement in their children's education as the most important educational policy priority in the coming years; (2) that nearly half of 14 to 17 year olds reported that they would like to talk to their parents more about school work; and (3) that nine out of ten business executives rated lack of parental involvement as the biggest obstacle to school reform. Many family involvement programs involve long-term intervention to help students complete high school and continue on to higher education.

**SUMMARY:** A Parenting Task Force is established. The task force will study parent and education partnerships in education. Specifically, the task force will (1) study partnerships that exist in other states; (2) study the dissemination of information to parents, community support of parenting programs, and academic counseling practices currently used in Washington to aid parents in managing their child's education; and (3) recommend models for improving communication, for assuring a smooth transition from secondary to post secondary education, and for professional training of educators.

The task force members will include two members of the House of Representatives and two members of the Senate, four parents of K-12 students, and two K-12 professionals. In addition, the task force will include one member from higher education, one member from business, and one representative from social service providers.

The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and the Higher Education Coordinating Board will provide staff support. The task force will submit its findings and recommendations to the House and Senate higher education committees by December 1, 1998.