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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1598**

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**State of Washington                      55th Legislature                      1997 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Sterk, Johnson, Talcott and Mulliken)

Read first time 03/05/97.

1            AN ACT Relating to prohibiting the use of certain psychological  
2 techniques in the classroom; adding new sections to chapter 28A.150  
3 RCW; prescribing penalties; and declaring an emergency.

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

5            NEW SECTION.            **Sec. 1.**            The legislature recognizes the  
6 responsibility of educational practitioners to fulfill the obligations  
7 of the Washington state Constitution and to protect the health, safety,  
8 and general welfare of students. The legislature further recognizes  
9 that techniques used in school programs must ensure that educational  
10 practitioners, including teachers, administrators, counselors, and  
11 other staff, are practicing within the scope of their professional  
12 duties. Therefore, educational practitioners are prohibited from using  
13 hypnosis or dissociative mental states, including any techniques,  
14 curricula, or methods that produce or advocate a dissociative mental  
15 state or hypnotic state in which there is a separation or isolation of  
16 mental processes in such a way that they become split off from the main  
17 personality or lose their normal thought-affect relationship.  
18 "Hypnosis" means a dissociative or altered state of consciousness,  
19 usually artificially induced, characterized by a heightened

1 responsiveness to suggestions and commands, suspension of disbelief  
2 with a lowering of critical judgment, and the potential of altered  
3 perceptions. Hypnosis is also defined as a deliberately induced  
4 condition of suggestibility or trance.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Educational practitioners who use methods or  
6 curricula producing dissociative states are in violation of  
7 professional practices. Violators of section 1 of this act shall be  
8 subject to reprimand, suspension, and revocation actions respecting  
9 certification of educational practitioners in the state of Washington  
10 for acts of unprofessional conduct as specified in RCW 28A.410.010.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act are each added  
12 to chapter 28A.150 RCW.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** 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 takes effect  
16 immediately.

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