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HOUSE BILL 1659

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Clements, Doumit, Schoesler, D. Sommers, Grant, Johnson, Tokuda and Ogden

Read first time 02/04/97. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to the recruitment, preparation, and continuing  
2 education of vocational agriculture teachers; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 28A.415 RCW; creating a new section; and making an  
4 appropriation.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that the state of  
7 Washington has a rich agricultural history and that agriculture  
8 continues to be one of the most basic and important industries of the  
9 state. The legislature finds that the growth of this vital industry  
10 requires that students continue to receive vocational agriculture  
11 instruction from trained and qualified vocational agriculture  
12 instructors. The legislature further finds that the number of  
13 qualified vocational agriculture educators is declining. The  
14 legislature finds that a vocational agriculture teacher recruitment  
15 program is necessary to protect the educational and career  
16 opportunities for students with interests in vocational agriculture.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.415  
18 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) The Washington state vocational agriculture teacher recruitment  
2 program is established. The program shall be designed by the state  
3 board of education, in consultation with the higher education  
4 coordinating board, representatives of institutions of higher  
5 education, education organizations having an interest in teacher  
6 recruitment issues, state-wide agricultural business organizations,  
7 organizations having an interest in agriculture education, the  
8 superintendent of public instruction, the state board for community and  
9 technical colleges, and the department of agriculture. The program  
10 shall be designed to recruit students who are in grades nine through  
11 twelve and adults who have entered other occupations to be future  
12 vocational agriculture teachers.

13 (2) The program shall include the following:

14 (a) Encouraging students in grades nine through twelve to acquire  
15 the academic and related skills necessary to prepare for the study of  
16 vocational agriculture at an institution of higher education;

17 (b) Promoting vocational agriculture teaching career opportunities  
18 to develop an awareness of the opportunities in the education  
19 profession;

20 (c) Providing opportunities for students to experience the  
21 application of regular high school course work to activities related to  
22 a teaching career in vocational agriculture;

23 (d) Providing information on the transferability of skills learned  
24 in other occupations and professions to activities related to a  
25 teaching career in vocational agriculture;

26 (e) Providing opportunities for underrepresented populations to  
27 participate in activities related to a teaching career in vocational  
28 agriculture; and

29 (f) Providing for increased cooperation among institutions of  
30 higher education including community colleges, the superintendent of  
31 public instruction, the state board of education, and local school  
32 districts in working toward the goals of the program.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of forty-nine thousand five hundred  
34 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for  
35 the biennium ending June 30, 1999, from the general fund to the state  
36 board of education for the purposes of section 2 of this act.

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