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HOUSE BILL 1898

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Johnson, Cole, Blalock, Zellinsky, Cooper, Tokuda, Dickerson, Keiser, Regala, Ogden, Conway and Linville; by request of Board of Education

Read first time 02/12/97. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to teacher assessment for certification; adding a  
2 new section to chapter 28A.410 RCW; creating a new section; and  
3 repealing RCW 28A.410.020.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds and declares:

6 (1) Washington has a strong and continually improving system of  
7 teacher preparation and certification.

8 (2) Incorporating teacher assessment for certification into the  
9 system cannot guarantee good teaching performance, but can contribute  
10 to public confidence.

11 (3) Teacher assessment for certification can guard against  
12 admission to the teaching profession of persons who have not  
13 demonstrated that they are competent in the basic skills of reading,  
14 writing, communications, and math; knowledgeable about the skills  
15 required to teach; and knowledgeable in the subjects they will be  
16 assigned to teach.

17 (4) Teacher assessment for certification should be implemented as  
18 a complementary element to the existing system of teacher preparation  
19 and certification.

1 (5) Incorporating teacher assessment for certification should be  
2 done in a manner that is aligned with the direction of the improvement  
3 of student achievement act of 1993, chapter 336, Laws of 1993.

4 (6) Teacher assessment for certification should add value to the  
5 candidate's professional growth journey.

6 (7) Teacher assessment for certification will contribute to  
7 maintaining an already high quality system of teacher preparation and  
8 certification in Washington.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.410  
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 (1) The state board of education shall provide for the  
12 implementation of one or more means of assessing the knowledge or  
13 abilities, or both, of all applicants for teaching certificates  
14 required by the state board under this chapter.

15 (2) On or before September 1, 2000, the state board at a minimum  
16 shall assess:

17 (a) An applicant's knowledge in the subjects of reading, writing,  
18 communications, and mathematics as determined by the state board; and

19 (b) An applicant's teaching abilities or knowledge of teaching, or  
20 both, as determined by the state board.

21 (3) In addition to the assessments under subsection (2) of this  
22 section, the state board of education also shall provide for the  
23 implementation of one or more means of assessing an applicant's  
24 knowledge in the subjects for which the applicant has received, or  
25 applied for, an endorsement. This assessment shall be offered as soon  
26 as reasonably possible.

27 (4) The state board of education may provide for the implementation  
28 of one or more means of assessing an applicant's knowledge in such  
29 other matters as may be required in the discretion of the state board.

30 (5) On each of the assessments under subsections (2) and (3) of  
31 this section, an applicant shall achieve a minimum assessment score, or  
32 minimum assessment scores, established by the state board as a  
33 condition to being issued a teaching certificate and subject  
34 endorsements to the certificate.

35 (6) The state board of education and superintendent of public  
36 instruction, as determined by the state board, may contract with one or  
37 more third parties for:

1 (a) The development, purchase, administration, scoring, and  
2 reporting of scores of the assessments established by the state board  
3 under this section;

4 (b) Related clerical and administrative activities; or

5 (c) Any combination of the purposes in this subsection.

6 (7) Applicants for teaching certificates shall pay fees established  
7 by the state board of education for initial assessments, reassessments,  
8 scoring of assessments, reporting of assessment scores, and clerical  
9 and administrative activities related thereto. Such fees shall be  
10 reasonably related to the direct and indirect costs of the state board  
11 and superintendent of public instruction in implementing this section,  
12 including contractual costs.

13 (8) Fee revenues received by the state board and superintendent of  
14 public instruction under this section shall be deposited in the teacher  
15 assessment account hereby created in the custody of the state  
16 treasurer. Moneys deposited in the account shall be expended  
17 exclusively for the direct and indirect costs of implementing this  
18 section. The account is subject to the allotment procedures under  
19 chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for disbursement.

20 (9) The superintendent of public instruction is responsible for  
21 supervision and providing support services to administer this section.

22 (10) The state board of education shall collaboratively develop and  
23 implement the assessments required under this section with the  
24 superintendent of public instruction and the commission on student  
25 learning. The state board also shall ensure that at a minimum,  
26 teachers, administrators, and representatives of institutions of higher  
27 education participate in the development and implementation of the  
28 assessments.

29 (11) The state board shall adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW that  
30 the board determines are reasonably necessary for the effective and  
31 efficient implementation of this section.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.410.020 and 1996 c 309 s 1, 1991 c  
33 116 s 20, 1988 c 251 s 4, & 1987 c 525 s 202 are each repealed.

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