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SENATE BILL 5167

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State of Washington                      55th Legislature                      1997 Regular Session

By Senators Stevens, Zarelli, Hochstatter and Schow

Read first time 01/17/97. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to prohibiting schools from presenting  
2 homosexuality as positive, normal behavior; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 28A.150 RCW; creating a new section; and declaring an  
4 emergency.

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

6            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.150  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8            The legislature finds that the duty of all teachers to endeavor to  
9 impress on the minds of their pupils the principles of morality and  
10 truth and to teach them to avoid profanity and falsehood, as required  
11 in RCW 28A.405.030, is an indispensable prerequisite for providing a  
12 sound education and for maintaining a virtuous and ethical society.

13            The legislature further finds that there is a legitimate and  
14 compelling state interest in ensuring the sincerely held values and  
15 beliefs of most parents regarding homosexuality, bisexuality,  
16 transsexuality, or transvestism are not denigrated or denied by the  
17 public schools and that homosexuality, bisexuality, transsexuality, or  
18 transvestism are not presented, promoted, or approved as positive,  
19 normal behavior.

1 A school, through an employee, volunteer, guest, or other  
2 instrumentality, may not present, promote, or approve homosexuality,  
3 bisexuality, transsexuality, or transvestism, and any such conduct,  
4 act, practice, or relationship, as positive, normal behavior, as  
5 acceptable, legitimate conduct, or as a natural, alternative lifestyle.

6 As used in this section, "school" means a common school of the  
7 state of Washington.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The provisions of this act are to be  
9 liberally construed to effectuate the policies and purposes of this  
10 act. In the event of conflict between this act and any other provision  
11 of law, the provisions of this act shall govern.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If any provision of this act or its  
13 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
14 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
15 persons or circumstances is not affected.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
17 preservation of the public peace, health, morals, or safety, or the  
18 support of the state government and its existing public institutions,  
19 and shall take effect immediately.

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