
SENATE BILL 5837

State of Washington 55th Legislature 1997 Regular Session

By Senators Johnson, Hochstatter, Schow, Winsley, Roach and Oke

Read first time 02/17/97. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to the learning materials loan program; adding a
2 new section to chapter 28A.195 RCW; creating a new section; making an
3 appropriation; and providing an effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature, in fulfilling its role as
6 stated in the state Constitution, namely, that "It is the paramount
7 duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all
8 children residing within its borders...", finds that families with
9 children enrolled in approved private schools are an integral part of
10 fulfilling the state's educational mission.

11 The legislature further recognizes that a significant percentage of
12 students attend approved private schools and frequently move between
13 the state's publicly and privately funded schools. The parents of
14 these children are subject to taxes and levies to fulfill the education
15 provided through our common schools. In addition, these parents pay
16 for student learning materials their child uses in the approved private
17 school that would be free of additional charge in the common school.
18 In acknowledgement of this additional burden and in recognizing the
19 role of our state's approved private schools in helping to fulfill the

1 constitutional mandate to provide a basic education to our children,
2 the legislature recognizes the need for equalization. The sole purpose
3 of this act is to assist children, not schools.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.195
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 Students attending state-approved private schools may receive
7 loaned learning materials from the local school district in which the
8 private school is located. To provide these materials to students,
9 approved private schools shall submit annual requests for learning
10 materials to the local school district in which the private school is
11 located. The local school district shall provide through a loan
12 agreement the learning materials in accordance with the following
13 guidelines:

14 (1) Learning materials support shall not be limited, in any way,
15 based on a student's economic status.

16 (2) Learning materials eligible for loan shall include, but not be
17 limited to: Supplies, textbooks, workbooks, audio-visual aids, and
18 technology made available, free of additional charge, for students in
19 the state's public schools.

20 (3) Only textbooks listed on the official adoption list of the
21 local school district are eligible.

22 (4) Loaned learning materials shall neither promote nor deter
23 sectarian or religious activities of the private school.

24 (5) No approved private school may be required to participate in
25 learning materials support provided by the state.

26 (6) Only students who attend state-approved private schools are
27 eligible for learning materials support.

28 (7) Student learning materials designed for religious instruction
29 are not eligible for learning materials support.

30 (8) No laws or rules may be added beyond those already in existence
31 as of January 1, 1997, that have a direct or indirect impact on the
32 autonomy of the private school as a result of the student's receipt of
33 learning materials support.

34 (9) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
35 adopt guidelines for effective implementation of this section.

36 (10) To assist the state, the office of the superintendent of
37 public instruction may identify currently existing, nonsectarian,
38 state-wide private school organizations to serve as the liaison with

1 the state for eligible private schools whose students are receiving or
2 are interested in receiving loaned learning materials.

3 (11) Student learning materials loaned to students attending
4 private schools under this section shall, at all times, be considered
5 the property of the state of Washington.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect September 1, 1997.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of two million dollars, or as much
8 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium ending
9 June 30, 1999, from the general fund to the office of the
10 superintendent of public instruction for the purposes of this act.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If any provision of this act or its
12 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
13 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
14 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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