
SENATE BILL 6394

State of Washington 55th Legislature 1998 Regular Session

By Senators Hochstatter, Stevens, Oke and Swecker

Read first time 01/16/98. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to science textbooks; and adding a new section to
2 chapter 28A.150 RCW.

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

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

6 All science textbooks purchased with state moneys must have the
7 following notice placed prominently in them.

8 **"A MESSAGE FROM THE WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE**

9 This textbook discusses evolution, a controversial
10 theory some scientists present as a scientific explanation for
11 the origin of living things, such as plants, animals, and
12 humans.

13 No one was present when life first appeared on earth.
14 Therefore, any statement about life's origins should be
15 considered as theory, not fact.

16 The word "evolution" may refer to many types of change.
17 Evolution describes changes that occur within a species.
18 (White moths, for example, may "evolve" into gray moths.) This

1 process is microevolution, which can be observed and described
2 as fact. Evolution may also refer to the change of one living
3 thing to another, such as reptiles into birds. This process,
4 called macroevolution, has never been observed and should be
5 considered a theory. Evolution also refers to the unproven
6 belief that random, undirected forces produced a world of
7 living things.

8 There are many unanswered questions about the origin of
9 life which are not mentioned in your textbook, including:

10 - Why did the major groups of animals suddenly appear in the
11 fossil record (known as the "Cambrian Explosion")?

12 - Why have no new major groups of living things appeared in
13 the fossil record for a long time?

14 - Why do major groups of plants and animals have no
15 transitional forms in the fossil record?

16 - How did you and all living things come to possess such a
17 complete and complex set of "Instructions" for building a
18 living body?

19 **Study hard and keep an open mind.** Someday, you may
20 contribute to the theories of how living things appeared on
21 earth."

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