
SENATE BILL 6407

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Wood, Kohl, Bauer, Patterson, B. Sheldon, Winsley and Oke;
by request of Board of Education

Read first time 01/19/98. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to teacher assessment for certification; adding new
2 sections to chapter 28A.410 RCW; creating a new section; and repealing
3 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) The state board at a minimum shall assess, beginning not later
16 than September 1, 1999:

17 (a) An applicant's knowledge in the subjects of reading, writing,
18 communications, and mathematics as determined by the state board. The
19 state board must begin this assessment not later than September 1,
20 1999; and

21 (b) An applicant's knowledge of teaching as determined by the state
22 board. For purposes of this assessment, "knowledge of teaching" means
23 the knowledge of teaching skills and theory that is supported by
24 research as necessary to be an effective teacher, which is not subject
25 specific, and which includes skills in classroom management and
26 discipline, organization and delivery of lessons, assessment
27 strategies, and working and communicating with parents. The state
28 board must begin this assessment not later than September 1, 2000.

29 (3) In addition to the assessments under subsection (2) of this
30 section, the state board of education also shall provide for the
31 implementation of one or more means of assessing an applicant's
32 knowledge in the subjects for which the applicant has received, or
33 applied for, an endorsement. The assessment of subject knowledge shall
34 not include instructional methodology. The state board must begin this
35 assessment not later than September 1, 2001.

36 (4) On each of the assessments under subsections (2) and (3) of
37 this section, an applicant shall achieve a minimum assessment score, or
38 minimum assessment scores, established by the state board as a

1 condition to being issued a teaching certificate and subject
2 endorsements to the certificate.

3 (5) The state board of education and superintendent of public
4 instruction, as determined by the state board, may contract with one or
5 more third parties for:

6 (a) The development, purchase, administration, scoring, and
7 reporting of scores of the assessments established by the state board
8 under this section;

9 (b) Related clerical and administrative activities; or

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

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

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

25 (8) The superintendent of public instruction is responsible for
26 supervision and providing support services to administer this section.

27 (9) The state board of education shall collaboratively develop and
28 implement the assessments required under this section with the
29 superintendent of public instruction and the commission on student
30 learning. The state board also shall ensure that at a minimum,
31 teachers, administrators, and representatives of institutions of higher
32 education participate in the development and implementation of the
33 assessments. The state board shall submit the proposed assessments to
34 the education committees of the house of representatives and senate for
35 the committees' review prior to implementing the assessments.

36 (10) The state board shall adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW that
37 the board determines are reasonably necessary for the effective and
38 efficient implementation of this section.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.410
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 By December 1, 1999, and biennially thereafter, the state board of
4 education shall prepare a report on the number and percentage of
5 candidates who are successful in passing the assessments for
6 certification required under section 2 of this act. The information
7 shall be reported for the individual public and private colleges and
8 universities in Washington as well as reported on an aggregate basis.
9 The report shall also include results dis-aggregated demographically.
10 The report is to be made available through the state library and placed
11 on the legislative alert list.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.410.020 and 1996 c 309 s 1, 1991 c
13 116 s 20, 1988 c 251 s 4, & 1987 c 525 s 202 are each repealed.

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