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**SENATE BILL 6574**

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**State of Washington**

**55th Legislature**

**1998 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Johnson, Stevens, Wood, Winsley, Deccio, Schow, Oke, McCaslin, Rossi, Hochstatter, Swecker, Sellar, Morton, McDonald and Roach

Read first time 01/21/98. 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: Textbooks, workbooks, audio-visual aids, and technology  
18 made available, free of additional charge, for students in the state's  
19 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, 1998, 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, 1998.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of two million dollars, or as much  
8 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year 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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