1 **2SHB 2409** - H AMD **446 ADOPTED 2-10-00**
2   By Representative Talcott
3   Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
4 following:

5   "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that academic
6 success rests on a foundation of character. The legislature further
7 finds that parents are the first and primary moral educators of
8 children, and that schools have a role in reinforcing the character
9 traits and values deemed important by parents and the local community.
10 The legislature further finds that when character education is
11 integrated into a school's curriculum there is a decline of incidences
12 involving violence, bullying, and harassment. The legislature intends
13 to encourage school districts to integrate character education into
14 each school's curriculum. The legislature further intends that local
15 communities, in partnership with schools or school districts, will have
16 the responsibility for determining which character traits and values
17 are included in each district or school's character education program.

18   **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.150.211 and 1994 c 245 s 10 are each amended to
19 read as follows:
20   (1) The legislature also recognizes that certain basic values and
21 character traits are essential to individual liberty, fulfillment, and
22 happiness. However, these values and traits are not intended to be
23 assessed or be standards for graduation. The legislature intends that
24 local communities have the responsibility for determining how these
25 values and character traits are learned as determined by consensus at
26 the local level. These values and traits include the importance of:
27   (((1))) (a) Honesty, integrity, and trust;
28   (((2))) (b) Respect for self and others;
29   (((3))) (c) Responsibility for personal actions and commitments;
30   (((4))) (d) Self-discipline and moderation;
31   (((5))) (e) Diligence and a positive work ethic;
32   (((6))) (f) Respect for law and authority;
33   (((7))) (g) Healthy and positive behavior; and
34   (((8))) (h) Family as the basis of society.

1   (2) Each school district is strongly encouraged to develop and
2 implement a character education program that incorporates into its
3 curriculum the character traits and values included in subsection (1)
4 of this section. Each school district is also strongly encouraged to
5 develop its character education program in partnership with parents and
6 all interested stakeholders in its local community. When developing a
7 character education program, school districts shall comply with the
8 open public meetings act in chapter 42.30 RCW.

9   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) Subject to availability of amounts
10 appropriated   for   this   specific   purpose,   the   office   of   the
11 superintendent of public instruction shall provide to each school
12 district that develops and implements a character education program, in
13 partnership with parents and all interested stakeholders in its local
14 community under the provisions of RCW 28A.150.211, an equal amount per
15 full-time equivalent elementary school student for the fiscal year
16 ending June 30, 2001. However, the minimum allocation to a district
17 shall be two hundred dollars for each elementary school operated by the
18 district.
19   (2) A school district that receives funding in accordance with
20 this section shall certify to the superintendent of public instruction
21 that funds received were expended for the purposes of this act.

22   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If specific funding for the purposes of
23 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
24 provided by June 30, 2000, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act
25 is null and void."

          EFFECT: Specifies that the meetings to develop a character
          education program are subject to the public meetings act.
          Specifies that the allocation for character education programs is
          dependent upon funds appropriated for this purpose. Replaces the
          requirement that funds be distributed on a one dollar per
          elementary student basis with a requirement that the per student
          allocation be provided in an equal amount, subject to a floor.