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HOUSE BILL 3071

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representative D. Schmidt

Read first time 01/27/2000. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to making community service a graduation  
2 requirement in Washington state schools; adding new sections to chapter  
3 28A.150 RCW; creating new sections; and providing an effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This act may be known and cited as the  
6 community service act of 2000.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The legislature finds that:

8 (a) Young people were four times more likely to volunteer if they  
9 were asked than if they were not asked;

10 (b) In Snohomish county, more than one hundred fifty thousand  
11 volunteers, about half the county population, log more than two million  
12 five hundred thousand hours each year. That is equivalent to more than  
13 thirty-three million dollars in paid staff hours, including benefits;

14 (c) A lot of colleges require community service on their  
15 applications;

16 (d) People learn things they are good at, and that helps them  
17 decide what they want to do as a career and also gives them valuable  
18 skills that they will use forever; and

1 (e) Community service gives students responsibility and allows them  
2 to prove that they can make a difference in the community.

3 (2) The purposes of this act are:

4 (a) To get students involved in their community; and

5 (b) To get students ready for the profession in which they are  
6 interested.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) All students in Washington state high  
8 schools shall complete a minimum of forty hours of community service.

9 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules to  
10 implement this section and establish a process for a school board to  
11 exempt a student from the requirement under this section.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The definitions in this section apply  
13 throughout sections 1 through 3 of this act unless the context clearly  
14 requires otherwise.

15 (1) "Community service" means activities that are noncurriculum-  
16 based and nonprofit and are recognized or arranged through the school.

17 (2) "Volunteer" means doing work without any payment.

18 (3) "Students" means people who are in the ninth grade through the  
19 twelfth grade and are enrolled in high school.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) This act applies to all federal and  
21 state law, and the implementation of that law, whether statutory or  
22 otherwise, and whether adopted before or after the effective date of  
23 this act.

24 (2) State statutory law adopted after the effective date of this  
25 act is subject to this act unless such law explicitly excludes such  
26 application by reference to this act.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Nothing in this act shall be construed to  
28 affect, interpret, or in any way change the Constitution of the United  
29 States or the Constitution of the state of Washington.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This act takes effect August 1, 2001.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 8.**    Sections 1 through 4 of this act are each  
2 added to chapter 28A.150 RCW.

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