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**SENATE BILL 5634**

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**State of Washington**

**56th Legislature**

**1999 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Finkbeiner, Zarelli, Hale, Oke, Deccio, Johnson, Hochstatter, Rossi, McDonald, Horn, Swecker and West

Read first time 02/01/1999. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to the retention and promotion of students; and  
2 adding a new section to chapter 28A.320 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.320  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The legislature finds that it is critical for the success of  
7 the public school system and for the greatest achievement of each  
8 individual pupil that all educators hold, and act upon, high  
9 expectations for the academic achievement of every student. The  
10 state's education reforms emphasize higher standards and performance,  
11 not just "seat time" in school. No child should graduate from high  
12 school with a diploma if the student is unable to read. Promoting  
13 student from grade to grade without mastering the material does no  
14 service to our children.

15 (2) Beginning with the 1999-2000 school year, all school boards  
16 shall adopt a policy, in addition to any existing local policy,  
17 regarding promotion and retention of pupils at the following times:

18 (a) Between the third and fourth grades;

1 (b) Between the end of the intermediate grades and the beginning of  
2 middle school grades; and

3 (c) Between the end of middle school grades and the beginning of  
4 high school.

5 (3) The district policy shall be adopted at a public meeting of the  
6 school board and shall:

7 (a) Provide for parental notification when a pupil is identified as  
8 being at risk of retention. This notice shall be provided as early in  
9 the school year, and as early in their school careers, as practicable.  
10 The policy shall provide a pupil's parent or guardian the opportunity  
11 to consult with the teacher or teachers responsible for the decision to  
12 promote or retain the pupil; and

13 (b) Indicate the manner in which opportunities for remedial  
14 instruction will be provided to pupils who are recommended for  
15 retention or who are identified as being at risk for retention.

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