
SENATE BILL 6729

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senator Finkbeiner

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to teacher assessment for certification; adding new
2 sections to chapter 28A.410 RCW; creating a new section; repealing RCW
3 28A.410.020; and providing an effective date.

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 will contribute both to public confidence and to maintaining an
10 already high quality system of teacher preparation and certification in
11 Washington;

12 (3) Teacher assessment for certification can guard against
13 admission to the teaching profession of persons who have not
14 demonstrated that they are competent in the basic skills of reading,
15 writing, communications, and math; and knowledgeable in the subjects
16 they will be assigned to teach;

17 (4) Teacher assessment for certification should be implemented as
18 a complementary element to the existing system of teacher preparation

1 and certification and add value to the candidate's professional growth
2 journey; and

3 (5) Incorporating teacher assessment for certification should be
4 done in a manner that is aligned with the direction of the improvement
5 of student achievement act of 1993, chapter 336, Laws of 1993.

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

8 (1)(a) By September 1, 2001, the state board of education shall
9 select an assessment developed by a national educational testing
10 company that assesses an applicant's knowledge in basic academic
11 skills. Beginning August 1, 2002, passing this assessment shall be
12 required for admission to state board of education-approved teacher
13 preparation programs and for out-of-state applicants for a Washington
14 residency teaching certificate.

15 (b) State board of education-approved teacher preparation programs
16 may, on an individual student basis, admit into their programs a
17 candidate who has not achieved the minimum assessment score established
18 by the state board. Individuals so admitted cannot receive residency
19 certification without passing the basic skills assessment under this
20 section.

21 (2) Beginning not later than September 1, 2002, the state board
22 shall provide for the initial implementation of one or more means of
23 assessing an applicant's knowledge in the subjects for which the
24 applicant has applied for an endorsement. The assessment of subject
25 knowledge shall not include instructional methodology. Beginning May
26 1, 2003, passing this assessment for the applicable endorsements shall
27 be required to receive a residency certificate.

28 (3) On each of the assessments under subsections (1) and (2) of
29 this section, an applicant shall be required to achieve at least the
30 minimum assessment score or scores established by the state board as a
31 condition to being admitted into a Washington teacher preparation
32 program and being issued a residency teaching certificate.

33 (a) The state board of education shall establish the minimum
34 assessment score or scores required on the assessment in subsection (1)
35 of this section.

36 (b) The advisory committee, created in subsection (8) of this
37 section, shall recommend to the state board of education the minimum
38 assessment score or scores required on the assessment in subsection (2)

1 of this section. The state board of education shall accept the
2 recommendation or reject the recommendation and request the advisory
3 committee to develop new recommendations.

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

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

10 (b) Related clerical and administrative activities; or

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

12 (5) Unless funds are appropriated for the costs associated with any
13 of the assessments under this section, applicants for admission to a
14 Washington teacher preparation program and applicants for residency
15 teaching certificates shall pay fees established by the state board of
16 education for initial assessments, reassessments, scoring of
17 assessments, reporting of assessment scores, and clerical and
18 administrative activities related thereto. Such fees shall be
19 reasonably related to the direct and indirect costs of the state board
20 and superintendent of public instruction in implementing this section,
21 including contractual costs.

22 (6) Fee revenues received by the state board and superintendent of
23 public instruction under this section shall be deposited in the teacher
24 assessment account hereby created in the custody of the state
25 treasurer. Moneys deposited in the account shall be expended
26 exclusively for the direct and indirect costs of implementing this
27 section. Only the superintendent of public instruction or the
28 superintendent's designee may authorize expenditures from the account.
29 The account is subject to the allotment procedures under chapter 43.88
30 RCW, but no appropriation is required for disbursement.

31 (7) The superintendent of public instruction is responsible for
32 supervision and providing support services to administer this section.

33 (8) The state board of education shall establish an advisory
34 committee, comprised mostly of certificated teachers, and including
35 elementary and secondary school administrators, and representatives of
36 institutions of higher education. By January 1, 2001, the advisory
37 committee shall make recommendations to the state board of education
38 regarding the selection of the assessments required in subsection (2)
39 of this section. The state board of education shall accept the

1 recommendations or reject the recommendations and request the advisory
2 committee to make new recommendations.

3 (9) The state board shall adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW that
4 the board determines are reasonably necessary for the effective and
5 efficient implementation of this section. The board may adopt rules
6 allowing exceptions from taking any of the assessments under this
7 section on a case-by-case basis.

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

10 By December 1, 2002, and annually thereafter, the state board of
11 education shall prepare a report on the number and percentage of
12 candidates who are successful in passing the assessments required under
13 section 2 of this act. The information shall be reported for the
14 individual public and private colleges and universities in Washington
15 as well as reported on an aggregate basis. The report shall also
16 include results disaggregated demographically. The report shall be
17 made available through the state library and over the internet and
18 placed on the legislative alert list.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.410.020 (Requirements for admission
20 to teacher preparation programs--Rules) and 1996 c 309 s 1, 1991 c 116
21 s 20, 1988 c 251 s 4, & 1987 c 525 s 202, as now or hereafter amended,
22 are each repealed, effective September 1, 2002.

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