

SENATE BILL REPORT

SHB 2415

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
Education, February 25, 2002

Title: An act relating to qualifications for public school principals and vice principals.

Brief Description: Changing qualifications for public school principals and vice principals.

Sponsors: House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Quall, Talcott, Haigh, Anderson, Rockefeller, Tokuda, Lantz, Romero, McIntire and Chase; by request of Governor Locke, Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Board of Education and Professional Educator Standards Board).

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Education: 2/20/02, 2/25/02 [DP].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators McAuliffe, Chair; Eide, Vice Chair; Carlson, Finkbeiner, Hochstatter, Johnson, Kastama, Prentice, Rasmussen, Regala and Zarelli.

Staff: Kelly Simpson (786-7403)

Background: Under current law, public school principals and vice principals must hold both teacher and administrative certificates.

Educational staff associates (ESA's) are professional certificated school employees and include the following school staff positions: (1) occupational therapists; (2) physical therapists; (3) speech-language pathologists; (4) audiologists; (5) nurses; (6) social workers; (7) counselors; and (8) psychologists.

Summary of Bill: Public school principals and vice principals must be credentialed in one of the following two ways, both of which require holding valid administrative certificates: (1) they must hold or have held valid teacher certificates, or (2) they must hold or have held valid ESA certificates and they must demonstrate successful school-based experience in an instructional role with students. Additionally, principals and vice principals may not be employed if their certificates were revoked, suspended, or surrendered.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: Principal leadership at the school level is extremely important under a standards-based K-12 education system. Such leadership may come from areas other than the teaching ranks. This bill would expand the pool of principal and vice principal candidates without compromising standards. Additionally, this is a first-step and the Professional Educator Standards Board can look into further expanding the pool of principal and vice principal candidates over time. Finally, this bill would expand career opportunities for educational staff associates.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: PRO: Gary King, WEA; Jennifer Wallace, Prof. Ed. Standards Board; Laura Cohen, Governor's Policy Office; Rainer House, AWSP; Larry Davis, SBE.