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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2577**

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**State of Washington**

**57th Legislature**

**2002 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Talcott, Haigh, Cox, Schindler, Pearson, Anderson, Carrell, Schmidt, Nixon, Morell, Casada, Esser, Benson, Holmquist, Miloscia, Mitchell, Mulliken, Quall, Woods, Campbell, Ogden and Upthegrove)

Read first time 02/05/2002. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to character education; amending RCW 28A.150.211;  
2 and creating a new section.

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

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

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.150.211 and 1994 c 245 s 10 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) The legislature also recognizes that certain basic values and  
4 character traits are essential to individual liberty, fulfillment, and  
5 happiness. However, these values and traits are not intended to be  
6 assessed or be standards for graduation. The legislature intends that  
7 local communities have the responsibility for determining how these  
8 values and character traits are learned as determined by consensus at  
9 the local level. These values and traits include the importance of:

- 10       (~~(1)~~) (a) Honesty, integrity, and trust;
- 11       (~~(2)~~) (b) Respect for self and others;
- 12       (~~(3)~~) (c) Responsibility for personal actions and commitments;
- 13       (~~(4)~~) (d) Self-discipline and moderation;
- 14       (~~(5)~~) (e) Diligence and a positive work ethic;
- 15       (~~(6)~~) (f) Respect for law and authority;
- 16       (~~(7)~~) (g) Healthy and positive behavior; and
- 17       (~~(8)~~) (h) Family as the basis of society.

18       (2) Each school district is strongly encouraged to develop and  
19 implement a character education program that incorporates into its  
20 curriculum the character traits and values included in subsection (1)  
21 of this section. Each school district is also strongly encouraged to  
22 develop its character education program in partnership with parents and  
23 all interested stakeholders in its local community. When developing  
24 character education programs, school districts shall comply with the  
25 open public meetings act, chapter 42.30 RCW.

26       (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction:

27       (a) Shall collect and make available on its web site programs and  
28 instructional materials that will help school districts, in  
29 consultation with parents and local community members, teach students  
30 how to demonstrate in a school setting the character traits in  
31 subsection (1) of this section;

32       (b) Shall include on its web site a link to the safety center web  
33 page;

34       (c) May update with new technologies access to this information in  
35 the safety center, to the extent resources are made available; and

36       (d) Shall permit individual school districts to have direct access  
37 to the safety center web site to post a brief summary of their  
38 policies, programs, partnerships, vendors, and instructional and

- 1 training materials and to provide a link to the school district's web
- 2 site for further information.

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