
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6598

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Senators Kohl-Welles, Horn, Jacobsen, Winsley, Johnson, Prentice, Rossi, Hewitt, Eide, McAuliffe, Rasmussen and Finkbeiner)

READ FIRST TIME 02/08/2002.

1 AN ACT Relating to natural science and wildlife education; adding
2 new sections to chapter 28A.300 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) Effective, integrated natural science
5 and wildlife education programs provide the foundation for the
6 development of literate children and adults, setting the stage for
7 lifelong learning. Furthermore, integrated natural science and
8 wildlife education offers many opportunities for achieving excellence
9 in our schools. Well-designed programs, integrated with the state's
10 essential academic learning requirements, can contribute to the state's
11 educational reform goals.

12 (2) Washington is fortunate to have institutions and programs that
13 currently provide quality natural science and wildlife education and
14 teacher training that is already integrated with the state's essential
15 academic learning requirements.

16 (3) Therefore, the purpose of the natural science and wildlife
17 education partnership trust fund is to further the development of
18 natural science and wildlife education in the state by:

1 (a) Providing state funds, to the extent that those funds are
2 appropriated, to match moneys or the value of in-kind services to fund
3 proven natural science and wildlife education programs that are fully
4 integrated with the state's essential academic learning requirements;
5 and

6 (b) Disbursing money through a competitive grant-making process.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 The Washington natural science and wildlife education partnership
10 fund is hereby created to provide natural science and wildlife
11 education opportunities for teachers and students to help achieve the
12 highest quality of excellence in education through compliance with the
13 essential academic learning requirements. The fund shall be in the
14 custody of the state treasurer. Receipts from appropriations must be
15 deposited into the fund. Expenditures from the fund shall be made by
16 grants by the superintendent of public instruction. Only the
17 superintendent of public instruction or the superintendent's designee
18 may authorize expenditures from the fund. The fund is subject to the
19 allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is
20 not required for expenditures.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
22 RCW to read as follows:

23 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall establish and
24 publish funding criteria for natural science and wildlife education
25 grants. These criteria shall be based on compliance with the essential
26 academic learning requirements. The criteria must also include natural
27 science and wildlife education programs with one or more of the
28 following features:

29 (a) Methods that encourage critical thinking;

30 (b) Integrated, interdisciplinary approaches to natural science and
31 wildlife conservation issues;

32 (c) Programs that target underserved, disadvantaged, and
33 multicultural populations;

34 (d) Programs that reach out to schools across the state that would
35 otherwise not have access to specialized natural science or wildlife
36 conservation programs.

37 (2) Eligible uses of grants include, but are not limited to:

1 (a) Continuing in-service and preservice training for educators
2 with materials specifically developed to enable educators to teach
3 integrated essential academic learning requirements in a compelling and
4 effective manner;

5 (b) Proven, innovative programs that teach integrated essential
6 academic learning requirements, especially those that emphasize natural
7 science and wildlife conservation and meet the needs of varying
8 learning styles; and

9 (c) Support and equipment needed for the implementation of the
10 programs in this section.

11 (3) Funds may only be disbursed to nonprofit organizations that can
12 provide matching funds or in-kind services.

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