
Higher Education Committee

SB 6407

Brief Description: Concerning school district superintendent credential preparation programs.

Sponsors: Senators Shin, McAuliffe, Kohl-Welles and Carlson; by request of State Board of Education.

Brief Summary of Bill
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Removes a limitation that, among public institutions of higher education, only the University of Washington or Washington State University may offer training for certification as a school superintendent.

Hearing Date: 2/20/04

Staff: Barbara McLain (786-7383).

Background:

The qualifications for school superintendents are set exclusively by local school boards, but a board could require its superintendent to be state certified through the State Board of Education (SBE). At a minimum, the SBE requires a master's degree and completion of an approved superintendent preparation program.

There are five SBE-approved programs, but among public institutions of higher education, state statute permits only the University of Washington (UW) or Washington State University (WSU) to offer training for certification as a school superintendent. Earning a certificate is not the same as earning an academic degree, although the two may be issued simultaneously. Most programs permit candidates to complete the certificate in conjunction with a master's degree or through post-master's degree study.

Summary of Bill:

The limitation is removed that only the UW or WSU among the public institutions of higher education may offer training for certification as a school superintendent.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.