
HOUSE BILL 1861

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Tom, Ruderman, Talcott, Priest, McMahan and Anderson

Read first time 02/12/2003. Referred to Committee on Technology, Telecommunications & Energy.

1 AN ACT Relating to a statewide web-based clearinghouse for high
2 quality, diverse resources and learning tools for the twenty-first
3 century; adding a new section to chapter 28A.150 RCW; and creating a
4 new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that with information
7 doubling every seven to ten years, Washington's educational communities
8 are reaching out to the digital realm in increasing numbers to help
9 educate students. In order to fully engage today's students beyond the
10 use of textbooks and traditional classroom instruction, educators can
11 benefit by having increased access to the emerging technologies in
12 education.

13 The legislature also finds there is a strong statewide demand among
14 students, parents, and educators for online learning, including a
15 demand for a variety of courses and digital tools and resources.
16 Students and parents want the flexibility and choice afforded by
17 quality online learning opportunities that are media rich, interactive,
18 and responsive.

1 The legislature further finds that Washington has a strong
2 foundation upon which to build. The state's K-20 network connects each
3 of our school districts with high-speed data, video, and internet
4 services. Washington is home to some of the world's leading technology
5 companies and research institutions, and many of the state's teachers,
6 schools, districts, colleges, universities, and public, private, and
7 nonprofit programs are applying digital technology to educational
8 endeavors.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.150
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 The Washington digital learning commons shall establish a statewide
12 web-based clearinghouse, through public and private partnership, that
13 shall serve as the central point of information, reference, and review
14 of online learning programs and resources available in Washington. The
15 clearinghouse shall provide links to the various digital providers and
16 shall incorporate a reference grid comparing the various
17 characteristics of each online learning program. Digital providers
18 shall submit descriptions of their program offerings, including
19 teaching and learning tools, digital resources, timelines, assessments,
20 and instructor support.

21 The web-based clearinghouse shall be designed and managed to
22 achieve the following objectives:

- 23 (1) Make more online resources available to teachers;
- 24 (2) Provide students with tools and resources to actively improve
25 and enrich their educational experiences;
- 26 (3) Offer parents and families access to tools and resources that
27 will facilitate more direct involvement in their children's education;
28 and
- 29 (4) Avoid expensive and duplicative efforts by creating and
30 connecting through our existing infrastructure and community assets, a
31 statewide clearinghouse of high quality online programs, information,
32 and tools.

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