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HOUSE BILL 2885

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Romero, Dickerson, Hankins, Hunt, Cairnes, Quall and Wallace

Read first time 01/22/2004. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to student safety and student discipline; adding a  
2 new section to chapter 28A.600 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature acknowledges that student  
5 disciplinary policies and behavioral intervention strategies must  
6 include provisions to address circumstances when a student's behavior  
7 presents a danger to himself or to others. The legislature recognizes  
8 the need for schools to have the flexibility to respond to the  
9 individual disciplinary needs of students with special needs and that  
10 isolation of a student may at times be necessary to protect the student  
11 or others. The legislature finds, however, that placement of a student  
12 in isolation may present a potential hazard to a student if appropriate  
13 safety measures are not in place. The legislature also finds that  
14 parents and guardians should be notified when the behavior of their  
15 students rises to a level requiring isolation for disciplinary  
16 purposes.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.600  
18 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) As used in this section, "containment room" means a room,  
2 space, or facility, other than a school principal's office, separate  
3 and apart from the classroom where the student receives the majority of  
4 daily instruction, in which the student is isolated from the rest of  
5 the school population for the purpose of student discipline or  
6 behavioral intervention.

7 (2) By September 1, 2004, within existing resources, the board of  
8 directors of each school district, if a containment room is used in any  
9 school facility in the district, shall adopt a policy regarding the use  
10 of such rooms. The policy required under this section shall be  
11 provided to parents annually and must include at least the following:

12 (a) An explanation of the purposes for which containment rooms are  
13 or may be used in the district's schools, including what other  
14 strategies will be employed before using a containment room;

15 (b) A requirement that a student may not be placed in a containment  
16 room unless the placement is identified as an optional intervention  
17 strategy in a student's individual education plan, behavioral  
18 intervention plan, or other written intervention plan;

19 (c) A process for notifying the parent or guardian of a student  
20 placed in a containment room for any portion of a school day, including  
21 the events leading up to that placement, within twenty-four hours after  
22 the placement;

23 (d) A requirement that each containment room be routinely assessed  
24 by the school site administrator for minimum safety standards,  
25 including but not limited to measures for visual observation of the  
26 student, eliminating the danger of falling objects, ensuring emergency  
27 access, assuring proper identification of the containment room, and  
28 measures to address other conditions which may present a potential  
29 safety hazard;

30 (e) A process for notice to parents with students enrolled at a  
31 school in which containment rooms are or may be utilized. Notice under  
32 this subsection must include:

33 (i) The location of the containment room or rooms; and

34 (ii) A description of the method of parental notification the  
35 school will use if a student is placed in a containment room.

36 (3) School districts are encouraged to invite input from parents in  
37 developing the policy required under subsection (1) of this section.

1           (4) The superintendent of public instruction may develop and  
2 disseminate appropriate information and guidelines for school districts  
3 to consider in developing their policies, and the superintendent is  
4 encouraged to provide technical assistance at the request of a school  
5 district.

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