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HOUSE BILL 1550

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Santos, McCoy, P. Sullivan, McDermott, Roberts, Kagi, Hasegawa, Tom, Sells, Kenney, Kilmer and Talcott

Read first time 01/27/2005. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving educational opportunities for  
2 low-income students; creating a new section; and making appropriations.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that more than  
5 forty percent of children from high-income families received a  
6 bachelor's degree or higher within five years of high school  
7 graduation, compared with only six percent of those in the lowest  
8 income group. Opening educational opportunities for these students can  
9 address and correct this disparity. Effective mentoring programs,  
10 along with financial assistance, prepare these low-income students to  
11 succeed and achieve their educational goals.

12 (2) In order to broaden higher education opportunities, the  
13 legislature supports the Washington state achievers' scholarship  
14 program. This program: (a) Provides mentoring to ensure academic  
15 support is available to students while in high school, encourages  
16 college enrollment, and gives assistance when enrolled in college; (b)  
17 identifies and reduces financial barriers to college for talented, low-  
18 income students; and (c) leverages private funding for higher education  
19 financial assistance.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    (1) The sum of one million dollars, or as  
2 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year  
3 ending June 30, 2006, from the general fund to the office of the  
4 superintendent of public instruction to support community volunteer  
5 mentors working with students selected as achievers' scholars.

6        (2) The sum of one million dollars, or as much thereof as may be  
7 necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007,  
8 from the general fund to the office of the superintendent of public  
9 instruction to support community volunteer mentors working with  
10 students selected as achievers' scholars.

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