
HOUSE BILL 2731

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By Representatives O'Brien, Strow and Ericks

Read first time 01/12/2006. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to advanced certification and education for
2 teachers; amending RCW 28A.410.250; adding a new section to chapter
3 28A.405 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that advanced
6 certification and education for teachers should focus on deepening
7 teachers' knowledge in the academic content area in which they
8 instruct. The legislature further finds that current professional
9 certification programs fail to provide adequate focus on academic
10 content, instead offering general and often repetitive coursework in
11 classroom management, learning theory, personal growth, and other
12 topics. Moreover, professional certification programs vary widely
13 depending on the college or university offering them. Professional
14 certification does not provide sufficient additional value to a
15 teacher's knowledge and skills to warrant being required of all
16 teachers. Therefore the legislature intends to remove the mandate of
17 professional certification for teachers and replace it with an
18 incentive for teachers to obtain advanced education in a specific
19 content area.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.410.250 and 2005 c 498 s 2 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 The (~~agency responsible for educator certification~~) professional
4 educator standards board shall adopt rules for professional
5 certification that:

6 (1) Authorize but do not require teachers to seek or obtain
7 professional certification as an advanced level of certification;

8 (2) Provide for a uniform and standard program, activities, and
9 expectations for all approved professional certification programs;

10 (3) Provide maximum program choice for applicants(~~(, promote~~
11 ~~portability among programs,)~~) and promote maximum efficiency for
12 applicants in attaining professional certification;

13 (~~(2) Require professional certification no earlier than the fifth~~
14 ~~year following the year that the teacher first completes provisional~~
15 ~~status, with an automatic two-year extension upon enrollment;~~

16 (~~3~~) (4) Grant professional certification to any teacher who
17 attains certification from the national board for professional teaching
18 standards;

19 (~~(4)~~) (5) Permit any teacher currently enrolled in or
20 participating in a program leading to professional certification to
21 continue the program under administrative rules in place when the
22 teacher began the program;

23 (~~(5)~~) (6) Provide criteria for the approval of educational
24 service districts, beginning no later than August 31, 2007, to offer
25 programs leading to professional certification. The rules shall be
26 written to encourage institutions of higher education and educational
27 service districts to partner with local school districts or consortia
28 of school districts, as appropriate, to provide instruction for
29 teachers seeking professional certification;

30 (~~(6) Encourage~~) (7) Require institutions of higher education to
31 offer professional certificate coursework as continuing education
32 credit hours. This shall not prevent an institution of higher
33 education from providing the option of including the professional
34 certification requirements as part of a master's degree program;

35 (~~(7)~~) (8) Provide criteria for a liaison relationship between
36 approved programs and school districts in which applicants are
37 employed;

1 ~~((8))~~ (9) Identify an expedited professional certification
2 process for out-of-state teachers who have five years or more of
3 successful teaching experience to demonstrate skills and impact on
4 student learning commensurate with Washington requirements for
5 professional certification. The rules may require these teachers,
6 ~~((within one year of the time they begin to teach in the state's public
7 schools,))~~ if they seek professional certification, to take a course in
8 or show evidence that they can teach to the state's essential academic
9 learning requirements; and

10 ~~((9))~~ (10) Identify an evaluation process of approved programs
11 that includes a review of the program coursework and applicant
12 coursework load requirements, linkages of programs to individual
13 teacher professional growth plans, linkages to school district and
14 school improvement plans, and, to the extent possible, linkages to
15 school district professional enrichment and growth programs for
16 teachers, where such programs are in place in school districts. ~~((The
17 agency shall provide a preliminary report on the evaluation process to
18 the senate and house of representatives committees on education policy
19 by November 1, 2005. The board shall identify:~~

20 ~~(a) A process for awarding conditional approval of a program that
21 shall include annual evaluations of the program until the program is
22 awarded full approval;~~

23 ~~(b) A less intensive evaluation cycle every three years once a
24 program receives full approval unless the responsible agency has reason
25 to intensify the evaluation;~~

26 ~~(c) A method for investigating programs that have received numerous
27 complaints from students enrolled in the program and from those
28 recently completing the program;~~

29 ~~(d) A method for investigating programs at the reasonable
30 discretion of the agency; and~~

31 ~~(e) A method for using, in the evaluation, both program completer
32 satisfaction responses and data on the impact of educators who have
33 obtained professional certification on student work and achievement.))~~

34 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 28A.405
35 RCW to read as follows:

36 (1) Effective September 1, 2006, certificated instructional staff
37 who have attained a master's or doctorate degree in an academic content

1 area that is directly aligned with one of the endorsements issued to
2 their teaching certificate shall receive an annual bonus. Certificated
3 instructional staff who attain such an advanced degree after September
4 1, 2006, shall receive the annual bonus beginning the school year
5 immediately following attainment of the degree.

6 (2) The bonus under this section is provided in addition to
7 compensation received under a district's salary schedule adopted in
8 accordance with RCW 28A.405.200 and shall not be included in
9 calculations of a district's average salary and associated salary
10 limitations under RCW 28A.400.200. The bonus is not part of basic
11 education.

12 (3) The bonus shall be paid in monthly increments and shall be
13 included in the definition of "earnable compensation" under RCW
14 41.32.010. The annual amount of the bonus shall be three thousand five
15 hundred dollars, prorated for less than full-time employment.

16 (4) The professional educator standards board shall adopt rules
17 defining the alignment of academic degrees and endorsement areas.

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