
ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2910

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Quall, Talcott, P. Sullivan, Shabro, Santos, Hunt, Anderson and Kenney

Read first time 01/16/2006. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to studying environmental education; and creating
2 a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The office of superintendent of public
5 instruction shall conduct an environmental education study in
6 partnership with public and private entities invested in strategies to
7 reach every student, family, and community with quality environmental
8 education experiences. The study shall provide empirical evidence,
9 exemplary models, and recommendations focused on:

10 (a) Career development;

11 (b) Good citizenship as proven through service learning;

12 (c) Graduation requirements, specifically addressing senior
13 culminating projects;

14 (d) Underserved youth and demographic groups; and

15 (e) Models of professional development for community-based service
16 organizations including state and local agencies.

17 (2) The study in this section shall provide findings and
18 recommendations useful to the Washington state comprehensive
19 environmental education plan, a comprehensive public-private endeavor

1 to develop local and statewide strategies to ensure quality outdoor
2 environmental education opportunities for every student, family, and
3 community in Washington.

4 (3) By studying the concepts in this section, the study shall
5 evaluate how environmental, natural science, wildlife, forestry, and
6 agriculture education benefits Washington's students, families, and
7 communities. Outdoor environmental education provides relevant quality
8 education set in real world contexts of the built, natural, cultural,
9 social, and economic environments. It provides opportunities for
10 direct natural experiences to help Washington's youth develop
11 self-esteem and personal responsibility. Washington benefits from
12 exemplary environmental education programs and public-private
13 environmental education partnerships across the state including
14 outdoor, agriculture, forestry, angling and hunting, cultural
15 competency, natural resource, natural science, and wildlife education
16 programs. The study will be useful in identifying outdoor
17 environmental education opportunities for Washington's students,
18 families, and communities.

19 (4) The office of superintendent of public instruction shall
20 provide an interim update to the legislature by December 1, 2006, and
21 shall complete the study no later than October 1, 2007.

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