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HOUSE BILL 3145

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Representatives P. Sullivan, Nixon, Hunt, Wood, Fromhold, Crouse, Grant, Condotta, Kessler, Kretz, Buri, Serben, Flannigan, Kristiansen, Ahern, Armstrong, Sump, Talcott, McDonald, Upthegrove, Tom, Quall, Darneille, Anderson, Woods, Schual-Berke, Bailey, Rodne, Morrell, Appleton, Kilmer, Green, Roberts, Sells, Kagi, Hudgins, Santos and Kenney

Read first time 01/23/2006. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to civics education; creating new sections; making  
2 appropriations; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the  
5 complexity of modern political life has created a demand for informed  
6 citizens who are willing not only to vote, but also to participate in  
7 the elections process.

8 (2) The purpose of this section is to create a pilot project that  
9 will help to graduate students who are better voters, better citizens,  
10 and who are ready to take an informed and responsible place in society.

11 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
12 work with selected county auditors' offices to develop an interactive  
13 high school civics curriculum to help students learn how to become  
14 informed citizens. The curriculum shall meet the requirements for the  
15 office of the superintendent of public instruction's classroom-based  
16 assessments. Staff from the office of the superintendent of public  
17 instruction shall work directly in the curriculum development.

18 (4) Counties shall apply to, and be selected by, the office of the

1 superintendent of public instruction to participate in the pilot  
2 project under this section. A maximum of fifteen counties may  
3 participate.

4 (5) The curriculum shall include, but not be limited to:

- 5 (a) Local government organization;
- 6 (b) A discussion of ballot measures, initiatives, and referenda;
- 7 (c) The role of the precinct in defining ballots, candidates, and  
8 political activities;
- 9 (d) The roles and responsibilities of taxing jurisdictions in  
10 establishing ballot measures; and
- 11 (e) The work of conducting elections.

12 (6) The study may include in the curriculum civics essential  
13 academic learning requirements relating to examining representative  
14 government and citizen participation and analyzing the purposes and  
15 organization of government and laws.

16 (7) A curriculum guide shall be developed that will help teachers  
17 and students maximize the learning of key issues in civics, and shall  
18 include strategies for helping students develop voters' guide  
19 information for ballot issues and candidates who appear on the ballot.  
20 This guide should incorporate ideas from other Washington state civics  
21 education programs, such as "We the People" and "Project Citizen." The  
22 guide should also present ideas for sharing the results of an election  
23 with the larger community and with local government officials in  
24 productive, meaningful ways.

25 (8) As part of the pilot project, high school students in  
26 participating counties shall be selected who will have supervised  
27 access to the county's election reporting web site to assist the county  
28 in managing its internet election reporting system. School districts  
29 in participating counties shall select students to participate in this  
30 aspect of the pilot project. Counties shall provide technical  
31 assistance and elections expertise to participating schools, either  
32 through existing staff resources or through a county-chosen vendor.

33 (9) In addition to the required components of the pilot project  
34 under this section, other activities may be included in the project,  
35 such as:

- 36 (a) Conducting mock county elections at schools;
- 37 (b) Using a school version of the county's reporting and election

1 system to conduct school elections, including, where possible, having  
2 school election results posted on the county's election web site; and

3 (c) Preparing an advisory issue on which the school or local  
4 community would vote, including issue preparation, conducting the  
5 election, and preparing a presentation to a local government official  
6 on the results of the advisory issue.

7 (10) The pilot project shall operate for the 2006-07 and 2007-08  
8 school years.

9 (11) Funds for the pilot project shall be made available to the  
10 office of the superintendent of public instruction for a contract  
11 position in civics curriculum and for support costs for soliciting and  
12 implementing volunteer participation.

13 (12) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
14 adopt rules to implement this section, including rules specifying  
15 selection criteria for counties that wish to participate.

16 (13) The superintendent of public instruction shall provide an  
17 interim report to appropriate committees of the legislature by December  
18 1, 2008, and a final report by December 1, 2009, detailing the results  
19 of the project and budget recommendations for expansion, if  
20 appropriate.

21 (14) This section expires January 31, 2010.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The office of the secretary of state shall  
23 enter into an interlocal agreement under chapter 39.34 RCW with the  
24 office of the superintendent of public instruction in which the office  
25 of the secretary of state shall pay the office of the superintendent of  
26 public instruction a minimum of two hundred forty thousand dollars,  
27 representing funds received by the office of the secretary of state  
28 under the federal help America vote act, for the purpose of curriculum  
29 development by the office of the superintendent of public instruction  
30 under this section. Payment under this section shall be made no later  
31 than July 1, 2006. Funds under this section shall be used for an  
32 eighteen-month contract position at the office of the superintendent of  
33 public instruction, including seminars and follow-up costs.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The sum of two hundred thousand dollars,  
35 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal

1 year ending June 30, 2007, from the general fund to the office of the  
2 state auditor for the purposes of this act.

3 (2) The sum of two hundred thousand dollars, or as much thereof as  
4 may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
5 2008, from the general fund to the office of the state auditor for the  
6 purposes of this act.

7 (3) The appropriations in this section shall be made available by  
8 the auditor's office directly to participating counties for internet  
9 requirements by December 31, 2008. Funding is for the purpose of  
10 supporting the prototype project. Counties may use funds for in-house  
11 development, vendor agreements, or to support existing services.  
12 Funding priority shall be given to counties in which technology and  
13 budgeting constraints would make participating in the pilot project a  
14 funding liability.

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