

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1708

59th Legislature
2005 Regular Session

Passed by the House April 23, 2005
Yeas 91 Nays 0

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate April 22, 2005
Yeas 44 Nays 0

President of the Senate

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Richard Nafziger, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1708** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

Chief Clerk

FILED

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1708

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2005 Regular Session

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Lovick, Quall, Dickerson, Cox, Haigh, Kenney, McDermott, O'Brien, Sells, B. Sullivan, Appleton, Simpson, Kagi, Darneille, Morrell, Green, P. Sullivan, Ormsby, McCoy, Chase and Moeller)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to dropout prevention; amending RCW 28A.175.010 and
2 28A.600.300; adding a new section to chapter 28A.175 RCW; and creating
3 new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.175
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 The superintendent of public instruction shall review and evaluate
8 promising programs and practices for dropout prevention. The
9 superintendent may consult with education administrators and providers,
10 parents, students, and researchers as appropriate, and shall include in
11 the review dropout prevention programs using nonpunitive approaches to
12 school discipline. The superintendent shall report to the legislature
13 by December 1, 2005, and recommend:

14 (1) The most promising comprehensive dropout prevention programs
15 and practices that encompass school-wide or district-wide restructuring
16 of the delivery of educational services;

17 (2) The most promising targeted dropout prevention programs and
18 practices designed to provide social and other services in coordination

1 with educational services to students who are at risk of dropping out
2 due to the presence of family, personal, economic, or cultural
3 circumstances; and

4 (3) Policy and other changes to enhance the ability of career and
5 technical education and skills center programs to further contribute to
6 dropout prevention efforts.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) To the extent funds are appropriated,
8 the office of the superintendent of public instruction in conjunction
9 with the administrative office of the courts, shall convene a work
10 group to evaluate the following:

11 (a) Review the implementation of the Becca bill and other school
12 attendance measures to determine their consistent application across
13 the state and their conformance with state law;

14 (b) The definition of excused and unexcused absences;

15 (c) Creating incentives for school districts to improve student
16 attendance; and

17 (d) Related data collection requirements on graduation, dropouts,
18 student transfer, and other issues related to student attendance.

19 (2) The work group shall include representatives of the following
20 groups, agencies, and organizations:

21 (a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction;

22 (b) The state board of education;

23 (c) Teachers;

24 (d) School administrators;

25 (e) School counselors;

26 (f) Truancy officers and truancy board members;

27 (g) The administrator for the courts;

28 (h) Court judges;

29 (i) Prosecuting attorneys;

30 (j) The office of attorney general;

31 (k) Institutions of higher education;

32 (l) Members of the legislature; and

33 (m) Other interested education organizations and personnel.

34 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
35 report the findings of the work group under this section to the
36 governor, the state board of education, and the legislature no later
37 than January 10, 2006.

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.175.010 and 1991 c 235 s 4 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 Each school district shall account for the educational progress of
4 each of its students. To achieve this, school districts shall be
5 required to report annually to the superintendent of public
6 instruction:

7 (1) For students enrolled in each of a school district's high
8 school programs:

9 (a) The number of students (~~((eligible for graduation))~~) who graduate
10 in fewer than four years;

11 (b) The number of students who graduate in four years;

12 (c) The number of students who remain in school for more than four
13 years but who eventually graduate and the number of students who remain
14 in school for more than four years but do not graduate;

15 (d) The number of students who transfer to other schools;

16 (e) (~~((The number of students who enter from other schools;~~
17 ~~(+f))~~) The number of students in the ninth through twelfth grade who
18 drop out of school over a four-year period; and

19 (~~((+g))~~) (f) The number of students whose status is unknown.

20 (2) Dropout rates of students in each of the grades (~~((nine))~~) seven
21 through twelve.

22 (3) Dropout rates for student populations in each of the grades
23 (~~((nine))~~) seven through twelve by:

24 (a) Ethnicity;

25 (b) Gender;

26 (c) Socioeconomic status; and

27 (d) Disability status.

28 (4) The causes or reasons, or both, attributed to students for
29 having dropped out of school in grades (~~((nine))~~) seven through twelve.

30 (5) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules
31 under chapter 34.05 RCW to assure uniformity in the information
32 districts are required to report under subsections (1) through (4) of
33 this section. In developing rules, the superintendent of public
34 instruction shall consult with school districts, including
35 administrative and counseling personnel, with regard to the methods
36 through which information is to be collected and reported.

37 (6) In reporting on the causes or reasons, or both, attributed to
38 students for having dropped out of school, school building officials

1 shall, to the extent reasonably practical, obtain such information
2 directly from students. In lieu of obtaining such information directly
3 from students, building principals and counselors shall identify the
4 causes or reasons, or both, based on their professional judgment.

5 (7) The superintendent of public instruction shall report annually
6 to the legislature the information collected under subsections (1)
7 through (4) of this section.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The legislature finds that the dropout rate
9 of the state's Native American students is the highest in the state.
10 Approximately one-half of all Native American high school students drop
11 out before graduating with a diploma. The legislature also finds that
12 culturally relevant educational opportunities are important
13 contributors to other efforts to increase the rates of high school
14 graduation for Native American students. The legislature further finds
15 that the higher education participation rate for Native American
16 students is the lowest in the state, and that more can be done to
17 encourage Native American students to pursue higher educational
18 opportunities. The legislature intends to authorize accredited public
19 tribal colleges to participate in the running start program for the
20 purposes of reducing the dropout rate of Native American students and
21 encouraging greater participation rates in higher education.

22 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28A.600.300 and 2002 c 80 s 1 are each amended to read
23 as follows:

24 For the purposes of RCW 28A.600.310 through 28A.600.400,
25 "participating institution of higher education" or "institution of
26 higher education" means:

27 (1) A community or technical college as defined in RCW 28B.50.030;
28 (~~and~~)

29 (2) A public tribal college located in Washington and accredited by
30 the northwest commission on colleges and universities or another
31 accrediting association recognized by the United States department of
32 education; and

33 (3) Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University,
34 Washington State University, and The Evergreen State College, if the

1 institution's governing board decides to participate in the program in
2 RCW 28A.600.310 through 28A.600.400.

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