

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2579**

59th Legislature  
2006 Regular Session

Passed by the House March 4, 2006  
Yeas 76 Nays 19

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate March 2, 2006  
Yeas 44 Nays 1

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**President of the Senate**

Approved

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**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 **ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2579** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

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**Chief Clerk**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2579

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2006 Regular Session

**State of Washington**                      **59th Legislature**                      **2006 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Upthegrove, Lantz, Dickerson, Appleton, Morrell, Hasegawa, Quall, Hunter, Haler, O'Brien, Murray, Hunt, Schual-Berke, Ormsby, Springer and Moeller

Read first time 01/10/2006. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to educational assessments; amending RCW  
2 28A.230.095; creating new sections; and making an appropriation.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that instruction in  
5 social studies, arts, health, and fitness is important to ensure a  
6 well-rounded and complete education. In particular, the civic mission  
7 of schools is strengthened and enhanced by comprehensive civics  
8 education and assessments. The legislature finds that effective and  
9 accountable democratic government depends upon an informed and engaged  
10 citizenry, and therefore, students should learn their rights and  
11 responsibilities as citizens, where those rights and responsibilities  
12 come from, and how to exercise them.

13            **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.095 and 2004 c 19 s 203 are each amended to  
14 read as follows:

15            (1) By the end of the 2008-09 school year, school districts shall  
16 have in place in elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools  
17 assessments or other strategies to assure that students have an  
18 opportunity to learn the essential academic learning requirements in

1 social studies, the arts, and health and fitness. Social studies  
2 includes history, geography, civics, economics, and social studies  
3 skills. Beginning with the 2008-09 school year, school districts shall  
4 annually submit an implementation verification report to the office of  
5 the superintendent of public instruction.

6 (2) Beginning with the 2008-09 school year, school districts shall  
7 require students in the fourth or fifth grades, the seventh or eighth  
8 grades, and the eleventh or twelfth grades to each complete at least  
9 one classroom-based assessment in civics. The civics assessment may be  
10 selected from a list of classroom-based assessments approved by the  
11 office of the superintendent of public instruction. Beginning with the  
12 2008-09 school year, school districts shall annually submit  
13 implementation verification reports to the office of the superintendent  
14 of public instruction documenting the use of the classroom-based  
15 assessments in civics.

16 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. (1) The legislature finds that the  
17 complexity of modern political life has created a demand for informed  
18 citizens who are willing not only to vote, but also to participate in  
19 the elections process.

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

23 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
24 work with selected county auditors' offices to develop an interactive  
25 high school civics curriculum to help students learn how to become  
26 informed citizens. The curriculum shall meet the requirements for the  
27 office of the superintendent of public instruction's classroom-based  
28 assessments. Staff from the office of the superintendent of public  
29 instruction shall work directly in the curriculum development.

30 (4) Counties shall apply to, and be selected by, the office of the  
31 superintendent of public instruction to participate in the pilot  
32 project under this section. A maximum of fifteen counties may  
33 participate.

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

35 (a) Local government organization;

36 (b) A discussion of ballot measures, initiatives, and referenda;

1 (c) The role of the precinct in defining ballots, candidates, and  
2 political activities;

3 (d) The roles and responsibilities of taxing jurisdictions in  
4 establishing ballot measures; and

5 (e) The work of conducting elections.

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

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

19 (8) In addition to the required components of the pilot project  
20 under this section, other activities may be included in the project,  
21 such as:

22 (a) Conducting mock county elections at schools; and

23 (b) Preparing an advisory issue on which the school would vote,  
24 including issue preparation, conducting the election, and preparing a  
25 presentation to a local government official on the results of the  
26 advisory issue.

27 (9) The pilot project shall operate for the 2006-07 and 2007-08  
28 school years.

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

33 (11) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
34 adopt rules to implement this section, including rules specifying  
35 selection criteria for counties that wish to participate.

36 (12) The superintendent of public instruction shall provide an  
37 interim report to appropriate committees of the legislature by December

1 1, 2008, and a final report by December 1, 2009, detailing the results  
2 of the project and budget recommendations for expansion, if  
3 appropriate.

4 (13) This section expires January 31, 2010.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, or  
6 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal  
7 year ending June 30, 2007, from the general fund to the superintendent  
8 of public instruction. The superintendent shall use the funds to  
9 provide competitive grants to school districts for curriculum  
10 alignment, development of innovative civics projects, and other  
11 activities that support the civics assessment under this act. As a  
12 condition of grant receipt, districts shall make the products developed  
13 under the grant widely available as examples of best practices.

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