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SENATE BILL 5983

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senators Pflug, Schmidt, Esser, Delvin and Benson

Read first time 02/17/2005. Referred to Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to professional certification of teachers; amending  
2 RCW 28A.410.210 and 28A.305.130; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes the importance of  
5 ongoing professional development and growth for teachers with the goal  
6 of improving student achievement. It is the intent of the legislature  
7 to ensure that professional certification is administered in such a way  
8 as to ensure that the professional development and growth of individual  
9 teachers is directly aligned to their current and future teaching  
10 responsibilities as professional educators.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.410.210 and 2000 c 39 s 103 are each amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 The Washington professional educator standards board shall:

14 (1) Serve as an advisory body to the superintendent of public  
15 instruction and as the sole advisory body to the state board of  
16 education on issues related to educator recruitment, hiring,  
17 preparation, certification including high quality alternative routes to  
18 certification, mentoring and support, professional growth, retention,

1 governance, prospective teacher pedagogy assessment, prospective  
2 principal assessment, educator evaluation including but not limited to  
3 peer evaluation, and revocation and suspension of licensure;

4 (2) Adopt rules to provide for the approval or disapproval of  
5 programs leading to the professional certification of teachers. The  
6 rules shall be written to allow the maximum program choice for  
7 applicants and shall promote maximum efficiency for applicants in  
8 attaining professional certification. The rules shall:

9 (a) Not require professional certification for any certificated  
10 teacher before the 2008-09 school year, not require professional  
11 certification before the fifth year following the receipt of a  
12 continuing employment contract for any individual teacher, and allow  
13 any teacher currently enrolled in or participating in a program leading  
14 to professional certification to continue the program under  
15 administrative rules in place when the teacher began the program;

16 (b) Provide criteria for the approval of accredited institutions of  
17 higher education, school districts, consortia of school districts, and  
18 educational service districts within the state to offer a program  
19 leading to professional certification;

20 (c) Allow applicants the choice of an approved program regardless  
21 of whether the school district in which they are employed is an  
22 approved program or a member of a school district consortia that is an  
23 approved program;

24 (d) Provide criteria for a liaison relationship between approved  
25 programs and school districts in which applicants are employed;

26 (e) When considering the approval of a school district or consortia  
27 of school districts to offer a program, give special consideration to  
28 those school districts that have in place or have a substantial plan to  
29 put into place a professional enrichment and growth program for  
30 teachers in the school district that is based on aligning curriculum to  
31 state academic standards, clear standards for quality teaching and  
32 learning, and support for teachers in the form of mentor teachers or  
33 other professional partnerships between beginning teachers and master  
34 educators; and

35 (f) Identify an evaluation of approved programs that includes  
36 intensive review of the approved programs in the first year following  
37 initial approval and then less intensive review in the following three  
38 years;

1       (3) Submit annual reports and recommendations, beginning December  
2 1, 2000, to the governor, the education and fiscal committees of the  
3 legislature, the state board of education, and the superintendent of  
4 public instruction concerning duties and activities within the board's  
5 advisory capacity. The Washington professional educator standards  
6 board shall submit a separate report by December 1, 2000, to the  
7 governor, the education and fiscal committees of the legislature, the  
8 state board of education, and the superintendent of public instruction  
9 providing recommendations for at least two high quality alternative  
10 routes to teacher certification. In its deliberations, the board shall  
11 consider at least one route that permits persons with substantial  
12 subject matter expertise to achieve residency certification through an  
13 on-the-job training program provided by a school district; and

14       (~~(3)~~) (4) Establish the prospective teacher assessment system for  
15 basic skills and subject knowledge that shall be required to obtain  
16 residency certification pursuant to RCW 28A.410.220 through  
17 28A.410.240.

18       **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.305.130 and 2002 c 205 s 3 are each amended to  
19 read as follows:

20       In addition to any other powers and duties as provided by law, the  
21 state board of education shall:

22       (1) Approve or disapprove the program of courses leading to initial  
23 teacher, school administrator, and school specialized personnel  
24 certification offered by all institutions of higher education within  
25 the state which may be accredited and whose graduates may become  
26 entitled to receive such certification, except those programs leading  
27 to professional certification.

28       (2) Conduct every five years a review of the program approval  
29 standards, except those programs leading to professional certification,  
30 including the minimum standards for teachers, administrators, and  
31 educational staff associates, to reflect research findings and assure  
32 continued improvement of preparation programs for teachers,  
33 administrators, and educational staff associates.

34       (3) Investigate the character of the work required to be performed  
35 as a condition of entrance to and graduation from any institution of  
36 higher education in this state relative to such certification as

1 provided for in subsection (1) of this section, and prepare a list of  
2 accredited institutions of higher education of this and other states  
3 whose graduates may be awarded such certificates.

4 (4)(a) The state board of education shall adopt rules to allow a  
5 teacher certification candidate to fulfill, in part, teacher  
6 preparation program requirements through work experience as a  
7 classified teacher's aide in a public school or private school meeting  
8 the requirements of RCW 28A.195.010. The rules shall include, but are  
9 not limited to, limitations based upon the recency of the teacher  
10 preparation candidate's teacher aide work experience, and limitations  
11 based on the amount of work experience that may apply toward teacher  
12 preparation program requirements under this chapter.

13 (b) The state board of education shall require that at the time of  
14 the individual's enrollment in a teacher preparation program, the  
15 supervising teacher and the building principal shall jointly provide to  
16 the teacher preparation program of the higher education institution at  
17 which the teacher candidate is enrolled, a written assessment of the  
18 performance of the teacher candidate. The assessment shall contain  
19 such information as determined by the state board of education and  
20 shall include: Evidence that at least fifty percent of the candidate's  
21 work as a classified teacher's aide was involved in instructional  
22 activities with children under the supervision of a certificated  
23 teacher and that the candidate worked a minimum of six hundred thirty  
24 hours for one school year; the type of work performed by the candidate;  
25 and a recommendation of whether the candidate's work experience as a  
26 classified teacher's aide should be substituted for teacher preparation  
27 program requirements. In compliance with such rules as may be  
28 established by the state board of education under this section, the  
29 teacher preparation programs of the higher education institution where  
30 the candidate is enrolled shall make the final determination as to what  
31 teacher preparation program requirements may be fulfilled by teacher  
32 aide work experience.

33 (5) Supervise the issuance of such certificates, except  
34 professional certificates, as provided for in subsection (1) of this  
35 section and specify the types and kinds of certificates necessary for  
36 the several departments of the common schools by rule or regulation in  
37 accordance with RCW 28A.410.010.

1           (6) Accredited, subject to such accreditation standards and  
2 procedures as may be established by the state board of education, all  
3 schools that apply for accreditation, and approve, subject to the  
4 provisions of RCW 28A.195.010, private schools carrying out a program  
5 for any or all of the grades kindergarten through twelve: PROVIDED,  
6 That no private school may be approved that operates a kindergarten  
7 program only: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no public or private schools  
8 shall be placed upon the list of accredited schools so long as secret  
9 societies are knowingly allowed to exist among its students by school  
10 officials: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the state board may elect to require  
11 all or certain classifications of the public schools to conduct and  
12 participate in such preaccreditation examination and evaluation  
13 processes as may now or hereafter be established by the board.

14           (7) Make rules and regulations governing the establishment in any  
15 existing nonhigh school district of any secondary program or any new  
16 grades in grades nine through twelve. Before any such program or any  
17 new grades are established the district must obtain prior approval of  
18 the state board.

19           (8) Prepare such outline of study for the common schools as the  
20 board shall deem necessary, and prescribe such rules for the general  
21 government of the common schools, as shall seek to secure regularity of  
22 attendance, prevent truancy, secure efficiency, and promote the true  
23 interest of the common schools.

24           (9) Continuously reevaluate courses and adopt and enforce  
25 regulations within the common schools so as to meet the educational  
26 needs of students and articulate with the institutions of higher  
27 education and unify the work of the public school system.

28           (10) Carry out board powers and duties relating to the organization  
29 and reorganization of school districts under chapter 28A.315 RCW  
30 (~~((28A.315.010 through 28A.315.680 and 28A.315.900))~~).

31           (11) Hear and decide appeals as otherwise provided by law.

32           The state board of education is given the authority to promulgate  
33 information and rules dealing with the prevention of child abuse for  
34 purposes of curriculum use in the common schools.

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