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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6618**

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

**By Senate Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education  
(originally sponsored by Senators McAuliffe and Schmidt)**

READ FIRST TIME 02/01/06.

1            AN ACT Relating to the high school assessment system; and creating  
2 new sections.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** In 1993 the Washington legislature laid out  
5 a vision of a revitalized school system in Washington state.  
6 Envisioned was a comprehensive assessment system committed to high  
7 academic standards for all of its students. The Washington assessment  
8 of student learning was created as a tool to measure whether students  
9 were reaching the high academic standards. The legislature continues  
10 to support this assessment as a part of a comprehensive assessment  
11 system. Recently some alternative assessments have been developed.  
12 The legislature finds that there is interest in exploring why some  
13 students have not been able to meet the state standards and whether  
14 additional alternative methods, options, procedures, or performance  
15 measures could be used to augment the current system.

16            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.** (1) The Washington state institute for  
17 public policy shall conduct a study to explore options to augment the

1 current system of assessments to provide additional opportunities for  
2 students to demonstrate that they have met the state learning  
3 standards. The study is limited to:

4 (a) A review and statistical analysis of Washington assessment of  
5 student learning data to profile the students who did not meet the  
6 standard in one or more areas of assessment, identify the  
7 characteristics of those students, and identify possible barriers to  
8 student success or possible causes of the lack of success;

9 (b) A review and identification of additional alternative  
10 assessment options that could be used to augment the current assessment  
11 system. In identifying the alternative assessment options, the  
12 institute shall include a review of alternative assessments used in  
13 other states as well as those that have been developed and those that  
14 have been proposed in Washington. The institute shall examine the use  
15 of national tests as well as career skill certification exams in their  
16 review of possible alternative assessment options. For each of the  
17 identified alternative assessment options, the study shall at a minimum  
18 include:

19 (i) An estimation of the costs for implementation;  
20 (ii) A review of the cultural appropriateness;  
21 (iii) Whether the alternative assessment reliably measures a  
22 student's ability to meet state learning standards in one or more of  
23 the required content areas;

24 (iv) Whether the alternative assessment is in compliance with RCW  
25 28A.655.061(1); and

26 (v) Any challenges to implementation for each of the identified  
27 alternative assessment options, including any legislative action  
28 necessary for implementation;

29 (c) A review and identification of additional alternative methods,  
30 procedures, or combinations of performance measures, including those  
31 proposed in Washington, to assess whether students have met the state  
32 learning standards. For each of the identified alternative methods,  
33 procedures, or performance measures, the study shall at a minimum  
34 include:

35 (i) An estimation of the costs for implementation;  
36 (ii) A review of the cultural appropriateness;  
37 (iii) Whether the method, procedure, or performance measure

1 reliably measures a student's ability to meet state learning standards  
2 in one or more of the required content areas;

3 (iv) Whether the method, procedure, or performance measure is in  
4 compliance with RCW 28A.655.061(1);

5 (v) Any challenges to implementation for each of the identified  
6 methods, procedures, or performance measures, including any legislative  
7 action necessary for implementation; and

8 (vi) Whether the procedures or methods could be standardized across  
9 the state.

10 (2) The Washington state institute for public policy shall provide  
11 an interim report to the legislature by December 1, 2006, and a final  
12 report by December 1, 2007. The interim report shall include a  
13 preliminary statistical analysis of the information required under  
14 subsection (1)(a) of this section and shall include recommendations on  
15 at least two alternative assessment options, alternative methods,  
16 procedures, or performance measures that were reviewed under subsection  
17 (1)(b) and (c) of this section. The final study shall include  
18 suggestions for any follow-up studies that the legislature could  
19 undertake to continue to build on the information obtained in this  
20 study.

21 (3) The institute shall consult, at a minimum, with nationally  
22 recognized experts on assessments including representatives from  
23 nationally recognized centers for multicultural education,  
24 representatives of the office of the superintendent of public  
25 instruction, educators, counselors, parents, the business community,  
26 classified employees, career and technical organizations,  
27 representatives of Washington tribes, representatives of cultural,  
28 linguistic, and racial minority groups, and the community of persons  
29 with disabilities in developing the initial list of possible  
30 alternative assessment options, alternative assessment methods,  
31 procedures, or performance measures to be reviewed under subsection  
32 (1)(b) and (c) of this section.

33 (4) The office of the superintendent of public instruction and  
34 school districts shall provide the institute with access to all  
35 necessary data to conduct the studies in this act.

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