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SENATE BILL 6780

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State of Washington

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By Senators Kohl-Welles, Carrell, McAuliffe, Weinstein, Esser, Pridemore, Berkey, Delvin, Rasmussen and Keiser

Read first time 01/23/2006. Referred to Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to mathematics and science education; amending RCW  
2 28A.230.090; reenacting and amending RCW 43.79A.040; adding a new  
3 section to chapter 28A.655 RCW; adding a new chapter to Title 28B RCW;  
4 creating a new section; and declaring an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** One of the pillars of American economic  
7 prosperity--our scientific and technological superiority--is beginning  
8 to atrophy even as other nations are developing their own capacity in  
9 these areas. Many respected organizations representing business,  
10 research, and education, as well as government science and statistics  
11 agencies and commissions, have extensively documented the critical  
12 situation in the United States regarding science, technology,  
13 engineering, and mathematics. The indicators range from measurable  
14 declines in United States innovation, such as patents and scientific  
15 articles, to soaring numbers of students in Asia majoring in these  
16 fields, to United States students' lagging interest and performance in  
17 mathematics and science. In Washington state, measures of K-12 student  
18 achievement in mathematics and science yield generally disappointing  
19 results, despite some small positive signs. America's competitive edge

1 in the global economy, the strength and versatility of its labor force,  
2 and its capacity to nourish research and innovation all depend on an  
3 education system capable of producing a steady supply of young people  
4 well-prepared in mathematics and science. The legislature finds that  
5 it is imperative to encourage and inspire our Washington students to  
6 pursue higher education in the fields of mathematics, science, and  
7 engineering. Our economic viability depends on this, both as a state  
8 and as a nation.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.090 and 2005 c 205 s 3 are each amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 (1) The state board of education shall establish high school  
12 graduation requirements or equivalencies for students, except as  
13 provided in section 3 of this act.

14 (a) Any course in Washington state history and government used to  
15 fulfill high school graduation requirements shall consider including  
16 information on the culture, history, and government of the American  
17 Indian peoples who were the first inhabitants of the state.

18 (b) The certificate of academic achievement requirements under RCW  
19 28A.655.061 or the certificate of individual achievement requirements  
20 under RCW 28A.155.045 are required for graduation from a public high  
21 school but are not the only requirements for graduation.

22 (c) Any decision on whether a student has met the state board's  
23 high school graduation requirements for a high school and beyond plan  
24 shall remain at the local level.

25 (2) In recognition of the statutory authority of the state board of  
26 education to establish and enforce minimum high school graduation  
27 requirements, the state board shall periodically reevaluate the  
28 graduation requirements and shall report such findings to the  
29 legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state board.

30 (3) Pursuant to any requirement for instruction in languages other  
31 than English established by the state board of education or a local  
32 school district, or both, for purposes of high school graduation,  
33 students who receive instruction in American sign language or one or  
34 more American Indian languages shall be considered to have satisfied  
35 the state or local school district graduation requirement for  
36 instruction in one or more languages other than English.

1 (4) If requested by the student and his or her family, a student  
2 who has completed high school courses before attending high school  
3 shall be given high school credit which shall be applied to fulfilling  
4 high school graduation requirements if:

5 (a) The course was taken with high school students, if the academic  
6 level of the course exceeds the requirements for seventh and eighth  
7 grade classes, and the student has successfully passed by completing  
8 the same course requirements and examinations as the high school  
9 students enrolled in the class; or

10 (b) The academic level of the course exceeds the requirements for  
11 seventh and eighth grade classes and the course would qualify for high  
12 school credit, because the course is similar or equivalent to a course  
13 offered at a high school in the district as determined by the school  
14 district board of directors.

15 (5) Students who have taken and successfully completed high school  
16 courses under the circumstances in subsection (4) of this section shall  
17 not be required to take an additional competency examination or perform  
18 any other additional assignment to receive credit.

19 (6) At the college or university level, five quarter or three  
20 semester hours equals one high school credit.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.655  
22 RCW to read as follows:

23 (1) The mathematics/science scholar high school diploma is created.  
24 This diploma shall be awarded to public school students, and approved  
25 private school students at the discretion of the approved private  
26 school, who complete the following requirements:

27 (a) Successfully earn the following high school credits:

28 (i) Four mathematics credits, including calculus;

29 (ii) At least three science credits, including chemistry and  
30 physics; and

31 (iii) At least three credits of world language other than English;

32 (b) Receive advanced placement scores of three or higher on at  
33 least two advance placement tests;

34 (c) Earn a high school grade point average of 3.5 or above; and

35 (d) Meet the state standards in all content areas of the high  
36 school level Washington assessment of student achievement.

1 (2) As used in this section, "high school credits" means a full  
2 school year of study or one hundred fifty hours of planned  
3 instructional activities, whichever is greater, or an equivalent as  
4 defined by the state board of education.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The higher education coordinating board  
6 shall award full tuition scholarships to students graduating from  
7 public and approved private high schools under chapter 28A.195 RCW who  
8 obtain a mathematics/science high school scholar diploma, if the  
9 student pursues an undergraduate degree in a mathematics or science-  
10 related field and who qualify for a scholarship under the ranking  
11 system developed by the board.

12 (2) The scholarships may only be used for undergraduate coursework  
13 beginning in the student's second year at accredited institutions of  
14 higher education in the state of Washington, except that the  
15 scholarships may be used for undergraduate coursework at Oregon  
16 institutions of higher education that are located in counties bordering  
17 Washington state.

18 (3) The higher education coordinating board shall develop a ranking  
19 system to determine priority of the award of the mathematics/science  
20 scholarship. The ranking system shall consider the following factors:

21 (a) The first year of course selection at institutions of higher  
22 education by the applicant. Applications shall be ranked higher based  
23 on the number of mathematics and science classes that the applicant  
24 enrolled and completed;

25 (b) The grade point average of the applicant in the first year at  
26 an institution of higher education; and

27 (c) Other criteria that the higher education coordinating board  
28 deems appropriate.

29 (4) The higher education coordinating board shall award  
30 scholarships to as many eligible students as possible using the ranking  
31 system.

32 (5) The scholarships may not be awarded to any student who is  
33 pursuing a degree in theology.

34 (6) The higher education coordinating board may establish  
35 satisfactory progress standards for the continued receipt of the  
36 scholarship.

1 (7) The higher education coordinating board shall establish the  
2 time frame within which the student must use the scholarship.

3 (8) The higher education coordinating board may adopt rules to  
4 implement this section.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The mathematics/science high school  
6 scholar diploma scholarship account is created in the custody of the  
7 state treasurer. The account shall be a nontreasury account retaining  
8 its interest earnings in accordance with RCW 43.79A.040.

9 (2) The higher education coordinating board shall deposit in the  
10 account all money received for the program. The account shall be self-  
11 sustaining and consist of funds appropriated by the legislature for the  
12 mathematics/science high school scholar diploma scholarship program,  
13 private contributions to the program, and refunds of scholarships under  
14 this chapter.

15 (3) Expenditures from the account shall be used for scholarships to  
16 eligible students.

17 (4) With the exception of the operating costs associated with the  
18 management of the account by the treasurer's office as authorized in  
19 chapter 43.79A RCW, the account shall be credited with all investment  
20 income earned by the account.

21 (5) Disbursements from the account are exempt from appropriations  
22 and the allotment provisions of chapter 43.88 RCW.

23 (6) Disbursements from the account shall be made only on the  
24 authorization of the higher education coordinating board.

25 **Sec. 6.** RCW 43.79A.040 and 2005 c 424 s 18, 2005 c 402 s 8, 2005  
26 c 215 s 10, and 2005 c 16 s 2 are each reenacted and amended to read as  
27 follows:

28 (1) Money in the treasurer's trust fund may be deposited, invested,  
29 and reinvested by the state treasurer in accordance with RCW 43.84.080  
30 in the same manner and to the same extent as if the money were in the  
31 state treasury.

32 (2) All income received from investment of the treasurer's trust  
33 fund shall be set aside in an account in the treasury trust fund to be  
34 known as the investment income account.

35 (3) The investment income account may be utilized for the payment  
36 of purchased banking services on behalf of treasurer's trust funds

1 including, but not limited to, depository, safekeeping, and  
2 disbursement functions for the state treasurer or affected state  
3 agencies. The investment income account is subject in all respects to  
4 chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for payments to  
5 financial institutions. Payments shall occur prior to distribution of  
6 earnings set forth in subsection (4) of this section.

7 (4)(a) Monthly, the state treasurer shall distribute the earnings  
8 credited to the investment income account to the state general fund  
9 except under (b) and (c) of this subsection.

10 (b) The following accounts and funds shall receive their  
11 proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or fund's  
12 average daily balance for the period: The Washington promise  
13 scholarship account, the college savings program account, the  
14 Washington advanced college tuition payment program account, the  
15 agricultural local fund, the American Indian scholarship endowment  
16 fund, the foster care scholarship endowment fund, the foster care  
17 endowed scholarship trust fund, the students with dependents grant  
18 account, the basic health plan self-insurance reserve account, the  
19 contract harvesting revolving account, the Washington state combined  
20 fund drive account, the commemorative works account, the Washington  
21 international exchange scholarship endowment fund, the developmental  
22 disabilities endowment trust fund, the energy account, the fair fund,  
23 the fruit and vegetable inspection account, the future teachers  
24 conditional scholarship account, the game farm alternative account, the  
25 grain inspection revolving fund, the juvenile accountability incentive  
26 account, the law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' plan 2  
27 expense fund, the local tourism promotion account, the  
28 mathematics/science high school scholar diploma scholarship account,  
29 the produce railcar pool account, the rural rehabilitation account, the  
30 stadium and exhibition center account, the youth athletic facility  
31 account, the self-insurance revolving fund, the sulfur dioxide  
32 abatement account, the children's trust fund, the Washington horse  
33 racing commission Washington bred owners' bonus fund account, the  
34 Washington horse racing commission class C purse fund account, the  
35 individual development account program account, the Washington horse  
36 racing commission operating account (earnings from the Washington horse  
37 racing commission operating account must be credited to the Washington  
38 horse racing commission class C purse fund account), and the life

1 sciences discovery fund. However, the earnings to be distributed shall  
2 first be reduced by the allocation to the state treasurer's service  
3 fund pursuant to RCW 43.08.190.

4 (c) The following accounts and funds shall receive eighty percent  
5 of their proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or  
6 fund's average daily balance for the period: The advanced right of way  
7 revolving fund, the advanced environmental mitigation revolving  
8 account, the city and county advance right-of-way revolving fund, the  
9 federal narcotics asset forfeitures account, the high occupancy vehicle  
10 account, the local rail service assistance account, and the  
11 miscellaneous transportation programs account.

12 (5) In conformance with Article II, section 37 of the state  
13 Constitution, no trust accounts or funds shall be allocated earnings  
14 without the specific affirmative directive of this section.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 4 and 5 of this act constitute a  
16 new chapter in Title 28B RCW.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
18 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
19 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
20 immediately.

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