

HB 2813 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the state has
4 committed to raise the achievement of all children of Washington
5 including children with visual impairments or blindness. The
6 legislature also finds that children with visual impairments and
7 blindness can benefit greatly if they are taught by an educator who is
8 trained to understand the learning, communication, and
9 orientation/mobility issues that blind and visually impaired children
10 encounter. Individuals who receive teacher training in educating the
11 visually impaired and blind acquire strategies to assist students in
12 reacting to and interacting with their environment and reach
13 achievement levels equal to sighted children. The legislature intends
14 to take the first steps to having such an in-state teacher preparation
15 program for teachers of visually impaired and blind students by
16 assessing the needs of the state in this area.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The professional educator standards board
18 shall consider approving out-of-state institutions of higher education
19 for the purposes of establishing a specialty endorsement program. By
20 December 15, 2008, the board shall report to the education committees
21 of the legislature the process used by the board for such consideration
22 and whether the board supports approval of out-of-state institutions of
23 higher education for the purposes of establishing a specialty
24 endorsement program.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) As part of the state needs assessment
26 process conducted by the higher education coordinating board in
27 accordance with RCW 28B.76.230, in consultation with interested parties
28 who are knowledgeable about training programs for teachers of visually

1 impaired and blind students and orientation/mobility teachers and the
2 professional educator standards board, the board shall assess the need
3 for baccalaureate and/or postgraduate degree programs in Washington
4 that specialize in teacher preparation programs for teachers of
5 visually impaired and blind students and orientation/mobility teachers
6 in Washington's preschools, and elementary, middle, and high schools.
7 If the board determines that there is a need for one or more programs
8 in Washington, then the board shall encourage the appropriate
9 institutions of higher education or institutional sectors to create
10 such a program or programs.

11 (2) By November 30, 2008, the board shall report to the legislature
12 on the needs assessment. The report shall also include a
13 recommendation on the appropriate level of one-time or start-up funding
14 to support the educator preparation program for teachers of visually
15 impaired and blind students and orientation/mobility teachers in
16 Washington's preschools and elementary, middle, and high schools.
17 Additionally, the report shall indicate which institutions or
18 institutional sectors demonstrate an interest or could be successful in
19 building and sustaining a high quality program, including which
20 institutions:

21 (a) Demonstrate the capacity to make a long-term commitment of
22 resources to build and sustain a program; and

23 (b) Can readily engage faculty appropriately qualified to develop
24 and deliver a high quality curriculum at the baccalaureate and/or
25 postgraduate level."

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26 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "students;" strike the
27 remainder of the title and insert "and creating new sections."

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