
Education Committee

HB 2026

Brief Description: Regarding recruiter access to student records.

Sponsors: Representatives Santos, McDermott, Haigh, P. Sullivan, Ericks, Simpson, Ormsby and Hasegawa.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires any school or school district that allows military recruiters to have access to students or student records to allow the same access to representatives of the Job Corps, Peace Corps, and AmeriCorps.

Hearing Date: 2/16/07

Staff: Anne Woodward (786-7119).

Background:

The federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prohibits schools from releasing student education records without parental consent. An exception allows schools to release student directory information, such as a student's name, address, and telephone number, provided that the schools give the students' parents a reasonable time to inform the school that the information should not be released without parental consent.

Federal law also requires schools and school districts that receive federal funds to provide, upon request by a military recruiter, access to secondary students' names, addresses, and telephone numbers. A student or parent may opt-out of having the student's information released to recruiters by notifying the school that the student's information is not to be released. Schools must notify parents of the opt-out option and comply with any requests. The law also requires school districts that receive federal funds to provide military recruiters with the same access to high school students that the school generally grants to institutions of higher education or to prospective employers of the students.

There are also state requirements that apply to school districts that allow prospective employers and recruiters from postsecondary institutions to have access to the school campus and to student

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information. Under Washington law, these school districts must allow the same access to military recruiters.

Summary of Bill:

Any school or school district that allows military recruiters to have access to students or student records must provide the same type of access to recruiters and representatives of the Job Corps, Peace Corps, and Americorps. Schools may only release student or family information as permitted by the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.