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HOUSE BILL 1479

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Appleton, Lantz, Green, Williams, Linville, Kagi, Ormsby, Santos and Seaquist

Read first time 01/22/2007. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to exempting transfer students from military  
2 families from certain prerequisites for earning a certificate of  
3 academic achievement; amending RCW 28A.655.061; adding a new section to  
4 chapter 28A.655 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that students who have  
7 been relocated across the country and perhaps across the world as a  
8 result of their families' service in the military face academic  
9 challenges with each relocation. Requiring students from military  
10 families who transfer in high school to pass the Washington assessment  
11 of student learning in order to receive a high school diploma poses an  
12 unfair burden on these students and their families.

13            **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.655.061 and 2006 c 115 s 4 are each amended to  
14 read as follows:

15            (1) The high school assessment system shall include but need not be  
16 limited to the Washington assessment of student learning, opportunities  
17 for a student to retake the content areas of the assessment in which  
18 the student was not successful, and if approved by the legislature

1 pursuant to subsection (10) of this section, one or more objective  
2 alternative assessments for a student to demonstrate achievement of  
3 state academic standards. The objective alternative assessments for  
4 each content area shall be comparable in rigor to the skills and  
5 knowledge that the student must demonstrate on the Washington  
6 assessment of student learning for each content area.

7 (2) Subject to the conditions in this section, a certificate of  
8 academic achievement shall be obtained by most students at about the  
9 age of sixteen, and is evidence that the students have successfully met  
10 the state standard in the content areas included in the certificate.  
11 With the exception of students satisfying the provisions of RCW  
12 28A.155.045, acquisition of the certificate is required for graduation  
13 from a public high school but is not the only requirement for  
14 graduation.

15 (3) Beginning with the graduating class of 2008, with the exception  
16 of students satisfying the provisions of RCW 28A.155.045 and students  
17 satisfying the provisions of section 3 of this act, a student who meets  
18 the state standards on the reading, writing, and mathematics content  
19 areas of the high school Washington assessment of student learning  
20 shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. If a student does  
21 not successfully meet the state standards in one or more content areas  
22 required for the certificate of academic achievement, then the student  
23 may retake the assessment in the content area up to four times at no  
24 cost to the student. If the student successfully meets the state  
25 standards on a retake of the assessment then the student shall earn a  
26 certificate of academic achievement. Once objective alternative  
27 assessments are authorized pursuant to subsection (10) of this section,  
28 a student may use the objective alternative assessments to demonstrate  
29 that the student successfully meets the state standards for that  
30 content area if the student has retaken the Washington assessment of  
31 student learning at least once. If the student successfully meets the  
32 state standards on the objective alternative assessments then the  
33 student shall earn a certificate of academic achievement.

34 (4) Beginning with the graduating class of 2010, a student must  
35 meet the state standards in science in addition to the other content  
36 areas required under subsection (3) of this section on the Washington  
37 assessment of student learning or the objective alternative assessments  
38 in order to earn a certificate of academic achievement.

1 (5) The state board of education may not require the acquisition of  
2 the certificate of academic achievement for students in home-based  
3 instruction under chapter 28A.200 RCW, for students enrolled in private  
4 schools under chapter 28A.195 RCW, or for students satisfying the  
5 provisions of RCW 28A.155.045.

6 (6) A student may retain and use the highest result from each  
7 successfully completed content area of the high school assessment.

8 (7) Beginning in 2006, school districts must make available to  
9 students the following options:

10 (a) To retake the Washington assessment of student learning up to  
11 four times in the content areas in which the student did not meet the  
12 state standards if the student is enrolled in a public school; or

13 (b) To retake the Washington assessment of student learning up to  
14 four times in the content areas in which the student did not meet the  
15 state standards if the student is enrolled in a high school completion  
16 program at a community or technical college. The superintendent of  
17 public instruction and the state board for community and technical  
18 colleges shall jointly identify means by which students in these  
19 programs can be assessed.

20 (8) Students who achieve the standard in a content area of the high  
21 school assessment but who wish to improve their results shall pay for  
22 retaking the assessment, using a uniform cost determined by the  
23 superintendent of public instruction.

24 (9) Subject to available funding, the superintendent shall pilot  
25 opportunities for retaking the high school assessment beginning in the  
26 2004-05 school year. Beginning no later than September 2006,  
27 opportunities to retake the assessment at least twice a year shall be  
28 available to each school district.

29 (10)(a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction  
30 shall develop options for implementing objective alternative  
31 assessments, which may include an appeals process, for students to  
32 demonstrate achievement of the state academic standards. The objective  
33 alternative assessments shall be comparable in rigor to the skills and  
34 knowledge that the student must demonstrate on the Washington  
35 assessment of student learning and be objective in its determination of  
36 student achievement of the state standards. Before any objective  
37 alternative assessments in addition to those authorized in RCW  
38 28A.655.065 or (b) of this subsection are used by a student to

1 demonstrate that the student has met the state standards in a content  
2 area required to obtain a certificate, the legislature shall formally  
3 approve the use of any objective alternative assessments through the  
4 omnibus appropriations act or by statute or concurrent resolution.

5 (b) A student's score on the mathematics portion of the preliminary  
6 scholastic assessment test (PSAT), the scholastic assessment test  
7 (SAT), or the American college test (ACT) may be used as an objective  
8 alternative assessment under this section for demonstrating that a  
9 student has met or exceeded the mathematics standards for the  
10 certificate of academic achievement. The state board of education  
11 shall identify the scores students must achieve on the mathematics  
12 portion of the PSAT, SAT, or ACT to meet or exceed the state standard  
13 for mathematics. The state board of education shall identify the first  
14 scores by December 1, 2006, and thereafter may increase but not  
15 decrease the scores required for students to meet or exceed the state  
16 standard for mathematics.

17 (11) By December 15, 2004, the house of representatives and senate  
18 education committees shall obtain information and conclusions from  
19 recognized, independent, national assessment experts regarding the  
20 validity and reliability of the high school Washington assessment of  
21 student learning for making individual student high school graduation  
22 determinations.

23 (12) To help assure continued progress in academic achievement as  
24 a foundation for high school graduation and to assure that students are  
25 on track for high school graduation, each school district shall prepare  
26 plans for students as provided in this subsection (12).

27 (a) Student learning plans are required for eighth through twelfth  
28 grade students who were not successful on any or all of the content  
29 areas of the Washington assessment for student learning during the  
30 previous school year. The plan shall include the courses,  
31 competencies, and other steps needed to be taken by the student to meet  
32 state academic standards and stay on track for graduation. This  
33 requirement shall be phased in as follows:

34 (i) Beginning no later than the 2004-05 school year ninth grade  
35 students as described in this subsection (12)(a) shall have a plan.

36 (ii) Beginning no later than the 2005-06 school year and every year  
37 thereafter eighth grade students as described in this subsection  
38 (12)(a) shall have a plan.

1 (iii) The parent or guardian shall be notified, preferably through  
2 a parent conference, of the student's results on the Washington  
3 assessment of student learning, actions the school intends to take to  
4 improve the student's skills in any content area in which the student  
5 was unsuccessful, strategies to help them improve their student's  
6 skills, and the content of the student's plan.

7 (iv) Progress made on the student plan shall be reported to the  
8 student's parents or guardian at least annually and adjustments to the  
9 plan made as necessary.

10 (b) Beginning with the 2005-06 school year and every year  
11 thereafter, all fifth grade students who were not successful in one or  
12 more of the content areas of the fourth grade Washington assessment of  
13 student learning shall have a student learning plan.

14 (i) The parent or guardian of a student described in this  
15 subsection (12)(b) shall be notified, preferably through a parent  
16 conference, of the student's results on the Washington assessment of  
17 student learning, actions the school intends to take to improve the  
18 student's skills in any content area in which the student was  
19 unsuccessful, and provide strategies to help them improve their  
20 student's skills.

21 (ii) Progress made on the student plan shall be reported to the  
22 student's parents or guardian at least annually and adjustments to the  
23 plan made as necessary.

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

26 Any student who transfers to a Washington state public school from  
27 another state after the ninth grade as a result of the student's parent  
28 or guardian receiving an active military duty assignment to Washington  
29 state shall not be required to meet state standards on the Washington  
30 assessment of student learning to earn a certificate of academic  
31 achievement, but shall not be precluded from earning a certificate of  
32 academic achievement upon meeting state standards on the Washington  
33 assessment of student learning or an approved alternative assessment.

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