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HOUSE BILL 2172

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Schindler, Warnick and McCune

Read first time 02/12/2007. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to mathematics education; adding a new section to  
2 chapter 28A.655 RCW; creating a new section; and declaring an  
3 emergency.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the quality of  
6 Washington state's K-12 essential academic learning standards in  
7 mathematics matters enormously. The legislature further finds that  
8 Washington's statewide mathematic standards are important, not only  
9 because they provide goalposts for teaching and learning across all of  
10 Washington's public schools but also they determine the content and  
11 emphasis of tests used to measure student achievement, influence the  
12 selection of textbooks and other curriculum materials, and form the  
13 core of teacher education programs.

14            The current Washington essential academic learning standards in  
15 mathematics are the result of a collaboration of many Washington  
16 educators, parents, business leaders, and citizens from communities in  
17 every corner of the state. However, the standards were developed more  
18 than a decade ago. The recent results of two international studies,  
19 the program for student international assessment (PISA) and the trends

1 in international mathematics and science study (TIMSS) make it evident  
2 that a vast number of United States' students, including Washington  
3 state students, are unable to perform even simple arithmetic  
4 calculations. This has disastrous implications for any effort to train  
5 American students in the higher-level mathematics skills needed to  
6 succeed in today's jobs. Forty-nine percent of 2003 Washington high  
7 school graduates who enrolled in two-year colleges needed a remedial  
8 mathematics class.

9 The legislature further finds that current essential academic  
10 learning requirements in mathematics should be reviewed by experts with  
11 a thorough understanding of mathematics, including university  
12 professors from mathematics and science departments and individuals  
13 from the employer community.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.655  
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) By July 1, 2007, the state board of education shall establish  
17 an independent mathematics review committee. Mathematics competency  
18 must be a prerequisite for inclusion on the committee.

19 (2) The committee shall be comprised of:

20 (a) Two persons who are exemplary mathematicians or scientists in  
21 academia;

22 (b) Four persons who are mathematicians or scientists from  
23 industry;

24 (c) Two parents; and

25 (d) Four persons who are mathematics or science educators.

26 (3) By July 1, 2009, the committee shall review the current  
27 essential academic learning requirements in mathematics and make  
28 recommendations regarding changes of these mathematics standards to the  
29 legislature, the governor, the state board of education, and the office  
30 of the superintendent of public instruction. The review shall include,  
31 but is not limited to the following:

32 (a) Reviewing the standards for clarity, rigor, content, reason,  
33 and any negative qualities;

34 (b) Articulating grade level expectations over the grades as a  
35 sequence of expectations and performances that build with increasing  
36 depth after foundational knowledge and skills are acquired, and  
37 reflect, where appropriate, the sequential nature of the discipline;

1 (c) Using the international benchmarking system of the trends in  
2 international mathematics and science study (TIMSS) and/or the program  
3 for international student assessment (PISA); and

4 (d) Reviewing other states and nations that have proven and high-  
5 quality mathematics standards, including California and Singapore.

6 (4) By July 1, 2008, the committee shall review mathematics  
7 curriculum and materials, including textbooks, and create a menu of  
8 curricula to guide districts in textbook adoptions to ensure textbook  
9 and curricula alignment with the essential academic learning  
10 requirements in mathematics.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
12 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
13 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
14 immediately.

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