
HOUSE BILL 2804

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Schual-Berke, Hudgins, Fromhold, Ormsby, Hunt, Barlow, Sullivan, Haigh, Lantz, Quall, Miloscia, and McIntire

Read first time 01/16/08. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to promoting geography education; adding a new
2 section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that too few people
5 understand the rich learning opportunities presented by the field of
6 geography. Geography is more than places on a map. Geography
7 addresses global connections, people and cultures, and economics and
8 environments. Our young people need to know geography in order to
9 understand today's world and succeed in tomorrow's. But students do
10 not have enough opportunities to explore and learn geography. A
11 national geographic survey shows that half of young Americans cannot
12 locate world powers like Japan and India. Twenty percent cannot locate
13 the Pacific Ocean. Without geography, our children are not ready for
14 the world. With geography, children have the power of global
15 knowledge. Geography education offers a wealth of opportunities to
16 integrate instruction and learning across disciplines such as art,
17 music, dance, history, science, economics, and languages, and to build
18 skills in inquiry, research, analysis, reading, and writing. Therefore

1 the legislature intends to support an endowment for geography education
2 in Washington state.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 Subject to funds appropriated for this purpose, the office of the
6 superintendent of public instruction shall contract with a national
7 organization to establish, maintain, and operate an endowment for the
8 promotion of geography education in Washington state. The national
9 organization must have experience operating geography education
10 endowments in other states and must provide equal nonstate matching
11 funds to the state funds provided in the contract. All funds in and
12 any interest earned on the endowment shall be used exclusively for
13 geography education programs including, but not limited to, curriculum
14 materials, resource collections, and professional development
15 institutes for teachers and administrators. The national organization
16 must have an established affiliated advisory committee in the state to
17 recommend local projects to be funded by the endowment. The contract
18 shall require that the organization report annually to the
19 superintendent on the recipients of endowment funds and the amounts and
20 purposes of expenditures from the fund.

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