
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5528

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Pflug, Holmquist, Zarelli, Swecker, Clements, Stevens, Roach, Hewitt, Delvin and Parlette)

READ FIRST TIME 02/26/07.

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. Committee
19 members chosen shall not have conflicts of interest with regard to
20 association with the following:

21 (a) Any publisher, distributor, or provider of curriculum,
22 assessment, test materials, and services, purchased by or contracted
23 through the office of the superintendent of public instruction,
24 educational service districts, or school districts; or

25 (b) Any federal, state, or privately funded K-12 professional
26 development initiatives.

27 (2) The committee shall be comprised of:

28 (a) Four tenured professors in mathematics or science, with
29 endorsement from the college or university president;

30 (b) Four individuals from business and industry in mathematics-
31 related fields who each have a minimum of a bachelor of science or arts
32 degree in mathematics, science, engineering, or equivalent as proven
33 through test of competency;

34 (c) Six mathematics classroom teachers, with proven experience, two
35 each from elementary, middle, and high school, and who each have a
36 minimum of a bachelor of science or arts degree in mathematics,

1 science, engineering, or equivalent as proven through test of
2 competency;

3 (d) Two parents; and

4 (e) One other citizen to serve as chair who is appointed by the
5 governor.

6 (3) Each member of the committee shall be compensated in accordance
7 with RCW 43.03.240 and reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance
8 with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. School districts shall be reimbursed
9 for the cost of substitutes for the mathematics educators on the
10 committee as required under RCW 28A.300.035. Members of the committee
11 who are employed by a public institution of higher education shall be
12 provided sufficient time away from their regular duties, without loss
13 of benefits or privileges, to fulfill the responsibilities of being a
14 committee member.

15 (4) By December 1, 2007, the committee shall review the current
16 essential academic learning requirements in mathematics and make
17 recommendations regarding changes of these mathematics standards to the
18 governor, the state board of education, and the office of the
19 superintendent of public instruction. The review shall include, but is
20 not limited to the following:

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

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

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

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

32 (5) The superintendent of public instruction shall present the
33 recommended changes made by the committee under subsection (4) of this
34 section to the education committees of the house of representatives and
35 senate as required by RCW 28A.655.070(4) during the 2008 legislative
36 session and shall adopt new essential academic learning requirements
37 and standards for mathematics based on the recommendations of the

1 committee's recommended changes unless the legislature chooses to act
2 during the 2008 legislative session.

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

8 (7) Any school district that chooses to adopt one of the
9 mathematics curricula from the curriculum menu identified under
10 subsection (6) of this section shall be compensated by the office of
11 the superintendent of public instruction for the actual costs of
12 adopting that curricula. The office of the superintendent of public
13 instruction shall determine an appropriate method for compensating the
14 districts based on the most effective and efficient implementation of
15 the curricula.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
17 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
18 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
19 immediately.

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