

**SB 6535-S - DIGEST**

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Requires the professional educator standards board to consider approving out-of-state institutions of higher education for the purposes of establishing a specialty endorsement program.

Requires, as part of the state needs assessment process conducted by the higher education coordinating board, the professional educator standards board to assess the need for baccalaureate and/or postgraduate degree programs in Washington that specialize in teacher preparation programs for teachers of visually impaired and blind students and orientation/mobility teachers in Washington's preschools, and elementary, middle, and high schools.

Requires, by November 30, 2008, the professional educator standards board to report to the legislature on the needs assessment.