

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## HB 1156

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As Reported by Senate Committee On:  
Early Learning & K-12 Education, March 26, 2009

**Title:** An act relating to creating a preference in the alternative route certification program for veterans and national guard members.

**Brief Description:** Creating a preference in the alternative route certification program for veterans and national guard members.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Anderson, Sullivan, Priest, Haigh, Quall, Dammeier, McCune, Wallace, Kelley and Herrera.

**Brief History:** Passed House: 2/23/09, 96-0.

**Committee Activity:** Early Learning & K-12 Education: 3/19/09, 3/26/09 [DP].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators McAuliffe, Chair; Kauffman, Vice Chair, Early Learning; Oemig, Vice Chair, K-12; King, Ranking Minority Member; Brandland, Hobbs, Holmquist, Jarrett, Roach and Tom.

**Staff:** Juliana Roe (786-7438)

**Background:** The Alternative Routes Partnership Grant Program, established in 2001, is operated by the Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) with the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) as fiscal agent. It provides support for the formation of partnerships between school districts and higher education teacher preparation programs to offer one or more of four school-based alternative routes to teacher certification. The programs are aimed at experienced paraeducators and midcareer professionals with expertise in subject areas in which Washington has shortages, such as math, science, and special education. There are nine alternative route programs (programs) that serve midcareer professionals, paraeducators, classified instructional staff, and conditional certificate holders. The programs are typically more intensive and shorter in length than traditional teacher certification routes, based on mentored internships and on-site training. Ninety-seven percent of alternative route candidates have entered Washington's teaching force upon completion of their programs.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

HECB administers the conditional scholarships applicable to the programs and PESB selects the scholarship recipients.

**Summary of Bill:** Applicants for the programs who are eligible veterans or National Guard members, and who otherwise meet the entry requirements for the program for which application is made, are given preference in admission and for scholarships.

"Eligible veteran or National Guard member" is defined as "a Washington domiciliary who was an active or reserve member of the United States military or naval forces, or a National Guard member called to active duty, who served in active federal service, under either Title 10 or Title 32 of the United States Code, in a war or conflict fought on foreign soil or in international waters or in another location in support of those serving on foreign soil or in international waters, and if discharged from service, has received an honorable discharge." Titles 10 and 32 of the United States Code encompass the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Reserve, and National Guard.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: The pool we have to draw from in this state is shrinking. It is challenging especially in the subjects of science, technology, and math. It is important to look for and find the deepest pool from which to attract possible applicants and that is the military. The military has a deep pool of persons experienced in math, technology, and humanities. They have already served their country and can do so again through the alternative routes program. This bill fits the policy needs and practicalities of the state. If they qualify in all other ways, they will have preference over other applicants.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Representative Anderson, prime sponsor.