

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5176

As of January 29, 2010

Title: An act relating to creating a bi-state partnership for teachers of children with visual impairments.

Brief Description: Creating a bi-state partnership for teachers of children with visual impairments.

Sponsors: Senators Shin, Kastama, McAuliffe, Rockefeller, Jarrett, Pridemore, Hobbs, Delvin, Keiser, Hatfield, Kilmer, Jacobsen and Roach.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Higher Education & Workforce Development: 2/18/09.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Staff: Aldo Melchiori (786-7439)

Background: Currently, there are no in-state teacher preparation programs specifically for teachers of students who are vision impaired. The closest program is at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon. Portland State University offers a graduate-level program for the preparation of teachers of students who are vision impaired. The program is offered almost entirely online, except for one on-campus summer session.

Summary of Bill: The bill as referred to committee not considered.

Summary of Bill (Proposed Substitute): The position of vision impairments/orientation and mobility coordinator is established and housed at Washington State University in Vancouver. The purpose of the coordinator is to create a partnership between Portland State University and Washington State University to address Washington's need for teachers of students who are vision impaired. The coordinator's responsibilities include recruiting students, developing partnerships with Washington school districts that provide services to students who are vision impaired, supervising enrolled students, serving as a liaison between Portland State University and Washington State University, instructing in the orientation and mobility curriculum as an adjunct faculty, and seeking grants and funding sources for the program.

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.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not Requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

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