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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1889**

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**State of Washington**

**61st Legislature**

**2009 Regular Session**

**By** House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Sullivan, Priest, Ormsby, Santos, and Simpson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/23/09.

1       AN ACT Relating to paraeducator tutors; adding a new section to  
2 chapter 28A.400 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds:

5       (a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction  
6 recognizes the accomplishments of classroom paraeducators to attain  
7 professional growth development standards in order to increase  
8 students' learning achievement; and

9       (b) There is a growing need to provide support for struggling  
10 students who have been identified as not meeting state academic  
11 standards. Highly trained paraeducators can have a significant impact  
12 on those students who fall short of grade level standards but do not  
13 meet the criteria to qualify for special education or Title I  
14 resources. Increasing the knowledge and skills of paraeducators will  
15 result in students reaching their highest potential.

16       (2) The purpose of this act is to develop standards for  
17 paraeducators to increase their knowledge of learning disabilities,  
18 addressing different learning styles, teaching strategies, and decoding  
19 skills that will result in a positive impact on student achievement.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 28A.400  
2    RCW to read as follows:

3        (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules  
4    establishing voluntary paraeducator tutor certification. Certification  
5    shall be for five-year periods.

6        (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall:

7        (a) Develop paraeducator tutor certification standards, a  
8    certification process, and certification requirements; and

9        (b) Approve professional development courses required for  
10   individuals with paraeducator tutor certification to maintain  
11   certification, in order to maximize the effectiveness of providing  
12   resources for students to achieve state standards and reach their  
13   highest possible academic potential.

14       (3) Professional development courses approved under this section  
15   must be available in many different formats, including online and at  
16   the summer and winter institutes, for paraeducators to learn the  
17   standards and acquire the skills necessary for paraeducator tutor  
18   certification.

19       (4) For the purposes of this section, a paraeducator tutor is a  
20   paraeducator who provides or assists in providing direct instruction to  
21   students.

22       (5) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
23   develop a proposal to provide incentives for individuals to pursue  
24   paraeducator tutor certification. The proposal shall be submitted to  
25   appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2009.

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