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HOUSE BILL 1986

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State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Hasegawa, Anderson, Wallace, White, and Sells

1            AN ACT Relating to peer mentoring; adding a new section to chapter  
2 28B.12 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that peer mentoring  
5 provides tangible and long-lasting opportunities for all students,  
6 especially for low-income students, students of color, and first  
7 generation students. These benefits include improved student  
8 achievement and planning for success in postsecondary education. The  
9 legislature further finds that mentoring increases the self-worth of  
10 both mentees and mentors, while cultivating opportunities to improve  
11 communication skills and develop and enhance leadership and other  
12 critical transferable skills. Furthermore, the legislature finds that  
13 mentorship provides a valuable opportunity to increase student interest  
14 in career opportunities in the counseling and teaching professions, and  
15 thus intends to support those efforts to the maximum extent possible.

16            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.12 RCW  
17 to read as follows:

18            (1) Western Washington University shall create and implement a

1 pilot mentoring program to inspire academic success and introduce  
2 elementary students to educational opportunities. In addition to  
3 establishing a pilot project on its own campus, the university, in  
4 close collaboration with the state board for community and technical  
5 colleges, shall jointly identify a community or technical college to  
6 participate in the pilot program. The community or technical college  
7 selected shall demonstrate active partnerships with interested common  
8 schools, local businesses, and community organizations. Western  
9 Washington University and the state board for community and technical  
10 colleges shall identify the community or technical college by August 1,  
11 2009.

12 (2) The state board for community and technical colleges shall work  
13 in close collaboration with Western Washington University to identify  
14 a community or technical college to participate in the pilot mentoring  
15 program.

16 (3) To the extent funds are appropriated for this specific purpose  
17 and within overall appropriations for the state work study program, the  
18 higher education coordinating board shall award grants to eligible  
19 institutions participating in the mentoring pilot project. Grants  
20 shall be awarded according to other procedures established by the board  
21 for award of grants under this chapter.

22 (4) The goals of the pilot project are to:

23 (a) Encourage at-risk elementary school students to complete high  
24 school and attend college, boosting the percentage of Washington  
25 students who continue onto college;

26 (b) Provide positive role models for at-risk students and allow  
27 college students the opportunity to perform community service;

28 (c) Strengthen relationships between the community, the university,  
29 and area youth;

30 (d) Introduce at-risk students to college and provide them an  
31 opportunity to experience their public colleges and universities;

32 (e) Increase the number of youth who view going to college as both  
33 necessary and achievable; and

34 (f) Develop a model that is scalable statewide.

35 (5) The pilot institutions shall:

36 (a) Recruit college students interested in serving as mentors to  
37 elementary school students;

1           (b) Identify local elementary schools with demonstrated need for a  
2 mentoring program;

3           (c) Develop a curriculum used for training college mentors. The  
4 college may grant college-level credit to students who complete the  
5 course;

6           (d) Develop any necessary contracts or interagency agreements to  
7 facilitate program implementation;

8           (e) Provide ongoing support and oversight of the program;

9           (f) Solicit grants, awards, and gifts from individuals, businesses,  
10 agencies, and foundations;

11           (g) Provide community outreach and publicity for the program;

12           (h) Develop appropriate outcome measures and evaluate the program  
13 at regular intervals;

14           (i) Together with the state board for community and technical  
15 colleges and in close collaboration with other community and  
16 institutional partners, submit to the legislature:

17           (i) A preliminary progress report by December 1, 2010, that  
18 includes a review of preliminary findings from the pilot project,  
19 recommendations regarding the resources necessary to expand the model  
20 statewide, and a process and timeline for statewide implementation; and

21           (ii) A final report, updating the findings from the preliminary  
22 report, by December 1, 2011.

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