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HOUSE BILL 2904

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State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2010 Regular Session

By Representatives Kagi, Santos, and Kenney

Read first time 01/18/10. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to powers and duties of the office of the education  
2 ombudsman; and amending RCW 43.06B.020.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.06B.020 and 2008 c 165 s 2 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            The education ombudsman shall have the following powers and duties:

7            (1) To develop parental involvement materials, including  
8 instructional guides developed to inform parents of the essential  
9 academic learning requirements required by the superintendent of public  
10 instruction. The instructional guides also shall contain actions  
11 parents may take to assist their children in meeting the requirements,  
12 and should focus on reaching parents who have not previously been  
13 involved with their children's education;

14            (2) To provide information to students, parents, and interested  
15 members of the public regarding this state's public elementary and  
16 secondary education system;

17            (3) To identify obstacles to greater parent and community  
18 involvement in school shared decision-making processes and recommend  
19 strategies for helping parents and community members to participate

1 effectively in school shared decision-making processes, including  
2 understanding and respecting the roles of school building  
3 administrators and staff;

4 (4) To identify and recommend strategies for improving the success  
5 rates of ethnic and racial student groups and students with  
6 disabilities, with disproportionate academic achievement;

7 (5) To refer complainants and others to appropriate resources,  
8 agencies, or departments;

9 (6) To facilitate the resolution of complaints made by parents and  
10 students with regard to the state's public elementary and secondary  
11 education system;

12 (7) To perform such other functions consistent with the purpose of  
13 the education ombudsman; (~~and~~)

14 (8) To actively seek and accept public and private money and  
15 develop private-public partnerships to support the purposes of the  
16 office. Any gifts, grants, or endowments from public or private  
17 sources that are made for the use or benefit of the office may be spent  
18 without appropriation according to their terms, along with any income  
19 from such gifts, grants, or endowments; and

20 (9) To consult with representatives of the following organizations  
21 and groups regarding the work of the office of the education ombudsman,  
22 including but not limited to:

23 (a) The state parent teacher association;

24 (b) Certificated and classified school employees;

25 (c) School and school district administrators;

26 (d) Parents of special education students;

27 (e) Parents of English language learners;

28 (f) The Washington state commission on Hispanic affairs;

29 (g) The Washington state commission on African-American affairs;

30 (h) The Washington state commission on Asian Pacific American  
31 affairs; and

32 (i) The governor's office of Indian affairs.

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