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SENATE BILL 5935

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senators McDermott and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 02/09/09. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to education programs for the prevention of child  
2 abuse in public schools; adding a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW;  
3 creating a new section; and repealing RCW 28A.230.080, 28A.300.150, and  
4 28A.300.160.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the number of  
7 children who have been found to be victims of abuse is unacceptable.  
8 This victimization often leads adult survivors into struggles with  
9 depression, alcohol and drug addiction, and other mental illnesses.  
10 There is evidence that indicates effective abuse prevention and  
11 personal safety education can be very valuable in efforts to reduce  
12 incidents of abuse. The legislature intends to address this issue by  
13 establishing guidelines for schools to integrate effective programs  
14 that teach students skills to prevent abuse. Furthermore, the  
15 legislature intends to involve communities and families in the work of  
16 the schools to enhance the efforts to prevent child abuse.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300  
18 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction, in  
2 consultation with professionals in the field of child abuse prevention  
3 and interested organizations, shall establish a statewide child abuse  
4 prevention program to be incorporated into existing programs at each  
5 public school. The child abuse prevention program must:

6 (a) Use proven research-based curricula found effective in the  
7 prevention of child abuse;

8 (b) Be provided to all students in an age-appropriate manner;

9 (c) Include peer-to-peer prevention education;

10 (d) Assist schools in communications with parents and community  
11 members;

12 (e) Identify public and private resources that can be of assistance  
13 to schools in their prevention efforts; and

14 (f) Provide frameworks to schools to engage and partner with  
15 community and parents on programs to prevent child abuse.

16 (2) School districts shall include in their audits with the office  
17 of the superintendent of public instruction a report on the  
18 implementation of this section in each school. The office of the  
19 superintendent of public instruction shall provide a report of its  
20 findings under this section to appropriate committees of the  
21 legislature.

22 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
23 implement and conduct activities under this section using only federal  
24 funding provided through the United States department of education for  
25 school safety and prevention programs.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The following acts or parts of acts are each  
27 repealed:

28 (1) RCW 28A.230.080 (Prevention of child abuse and neglect--Written  
29 policy--Participation in and establishment of programs) and 1990 c 33  
30 s 238 & 1987 c 489 s 6;

31 (2) RCW 28A.300.150 (Information on child abuse and neglect  
32 prevention curriculum--Rules) and 2006 c 263 s 705, 1994 c 245 s 8, &  
33 1987 c 489 s 2; and

34 (3) RCW 28A.300.160 (Development of coordinated primary prevention  
35 program for child abuse and neglect--Office as lead agency) and 1995 c

1 399 s 21 & 1987 c 489 s 3.

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