
SENATE BILL 5725

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, King, Litzow, Tom, Hill, and Shin

Read first time 02/09/11. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to science, technology, engineering, and
2 mathematics instruction; adding a new section to chapter 28A.410 RCW;
3 and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.410
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The quality education council recommended that the legislature
8 should ensure excellence in science, technology, engineering, and
9 mathematics (STEM). One of the recommendations is to encourage and
10 support partnerships with the business community to develop and
11 continue innovative STEM programs.

12 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
13 create a pilot program and identify two school districts in which to
14 implement STEM teacher certification

15 (3) School districts may apply to participate in the STEM teacher
16 certificate pilot program. Application shall be in a form developed by
17 the office of the superintendent of public instruction.

18 (4)(a) Beginning July 1, 2011, notwithstanding other requirements
19 for eligibility for teacher certification, a certificate may be issued

1 by the superintendent of public instruction to individuals in two pilot
2 school districts in accordance with the principles and requirements of
3 this subsection (4).

4 (b) The purpose of the STEM teacher certificate pilot program is to
5 assist school districts in meeting the state's educational goals by
6 giving districts flexibility in recruiting decisions based on shortages
7 or the opportunity to secure the services of unusually talented
8 individuals. Whenever practicable, the legislature encourages the
9 hiring of regularly certificated teachers.

10 (c) Pilot school districts must adopt a written policy establishing
11 the process for hiring STEM teachers before they are hired.

12 (d) Pilot school districts must maintain records of procedures
13 followed and decisions made pursuant to the policy, and provide those
14 records in the event of an audit.

15 (e) STEM teacher certificates may be issued by the superintendent
16 of public instruction upon application by a pilot school district to
17 persons who meet age, good moral character, and personal fitness
18 requirements established in rule, if the following conditions are
19 established in the application:

20 (i) The applicant is highly qualified and experienced in the
21 subject matter to be taught or has unusual distinction or exceptional
22 talent;

23 (ii) The district has verified that no regularly certificated
24 teachers are available to fill the STEM teacher position;

25 (iii) The teacher is hired through the established process for the
26 position;

27 (iv) The teacher is hired into a position for which there is a
28 justifiable need to hire a STEM teacher;

29 (v) The individual has been determined to be competent for the
30 assignment based on a process established by the district
31 superintendent;

32 (vi) The individual is being certificated for a limited assignment
33 and responsibility in a specified STEM program area; and

34 (vii) The individual shall receive orientation and be prepared for
35 the specific assignment and will be apprised of any legal liability,
36 the lines of authority, and the duration of the assignment if
37 applicable.

1 (f) Within the first sixty working days a STEM teacher is employed
2 by a pilot school district:

3 (i) A full-time STEM teacher must complete sixty clock hours (six
4 quarter hours or four semester hours) of coursework in pedagogy and
5 child/adolescent development appropriate to the assigned grade levels
6 as approved by the pilot school district;

7 (ii) A part-time STEM teacher must complete an appropriate training
8 plan of coursework in pedagogy and child/adolescent development
9 appropriate to the assigned grade levels as approved by the pilot
10 school district;

11 (g) Thereafter, a STEM certificated teacher must complete sixty
12 clock hours (six quarter hours or four semester hours) of coursework
13 every two years in pedagogy and child/adolescent development
14 appropriate to the assigned grade levels as approved by the pilot
15 school district.

16 (h) A STEM teacher certificate issued under this section is valid
17 only for the STEM activity or field specified in the certificate. The
18 certificate may be withdrawn upon application by the pilot school
19 district if the conditions in this section are not met or as
20 circumstances merit.

21 (5)(a) The professional educator standards board shall review the
22 pilot program and submit a report to the legislature evaluating: (i)
23 The success of the pilot program in assisting school districts to find
24 qualified teachers for STEM programs; (ii) recommendations, if
25 necessary, on how to improve the pilot program; and (iii)
26 recommendations on whether an alternative route program for teacher
27 certification could be adapted or created to provide STEM
28 certification.

29 (b) An initial report is due by December 1, 2012, and a final
30 report is due December 1, 2014. The report shall include
31 recommendations to the legislature regarding whether the pilot program
32 should be continued, discontinued, or expanded. If it is recommended
33 that the pilot program be expanded then the report shall include cost
34 estimates to scale the program statewide.

35 (6) The superintendent of public instruction may adopt rules
36 establishing reporting, recordkeeping, and accounting requirements
37 necessary to ensure accountability of participants in the pilot

1 program.

2 (7) This section expires December 31, 2014.

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