

**HB 1178** - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education

ADOPTED 04/12/2013

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the use of a  
4 basic skills test as an entrance requirement to teacher certification  
5 programs has unintentionally created a barrier to the effective  
6 recruitment of candidates from underrepresented populations who are  
7 otherwise qualified for the program. Therefore, the legislature  
8 intends to expand the pool of potential teacher candidates by expanding  
9 the types of testing instruments and assessments that may be used to  
10 measure basic skills. The legislature intends to review any  
11 alternative assessments to ensure that candidates must continue to meet  
12 the established standards for admission to a teacher certification  
13 program.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.410.220 and 2008 c 176 s 2 are each amended to  
15 read as follows:

16 (1)(a) Beginning not later than September 1, 2001, the Washington  
17 professional educator standards board shall make available and pilot a  
18 means of assessing an applicant's knowledge in the basic skills. For  
19 the purposes of this section, "basic skills" means the subjects of at  
20 least reading, writing, and mathematics. Beginning September 1, 2002,  
21 except as provided in (c) and (d) of this subsection and subsection (4)  
22 of this section, passing this assessment shall be required for  
23 admission to approved teacher preparation programs and for persons from  
24 out-of-state applying for a Washington state residency teaching  
25 certificate.

26 (b) On an individual student basis, approved teacher preparation  
27 programs may admit into their programs a candidate who has not achieved  
28 the minimum basic skills assessment score established by the Washington

1 professional educator standards board. Individuals so admitted may not  
2 receive residency certification without passing the basic skills  
3 assessment under this section.

4 (c) The Washington professional educator standards board may  
5 establish criteria to ensure that persons from out-of-state who are  
6 applying for residency certification and persons applying to master's  
7 degree level teacher preparation programs can demonstrate to the  
8 board's satisfaction that they have the requisite basic skills based  
9 upon having completed another basic skills assessment acceptable to the  
10 Washington professional educator standards board or by some other  
11 alternative approved by the Washington professional educator standards  
12 board.

13 (d) The Washington professional educator standards board may  
14 identify and accept other tests and test scores as long as the tests  
15 are comparable in rigor to the basic skills assessment and candidates  
16 meet or exceed the basic skills requirements established by the board.  
17 The board must set the acceptable score for admission to teacher  
18 certification programs at no lower than the average national scores for  
19 the SAT or ACT.

20 (2) The Washington professional educator standards board shall set  
21 performance standards and develop, pilot, and implement a uniform and  
22 externally administered professional-level certification assessment  
23 based on demonstrated teaching skill. In the development of this  
24 assessment, consideration shall be given to changes in professional  
25 certification program components such as the culminating seminar.

26 (3) Beginning not later than September 1, 2002, the Washington  
27 professional educator standards board shall provide for the initial  
28 piloting and implementation of a means of assessing an applicant's  
29 knowledge in the subjects for which the applicant has applied for an  
30 endorsement to his or her residency or professional teaching  
31 certificate. The assessment of subject knowledge shall not include  
32 instructional methodology. Beginning September 1, 2005, passing this  
33 assessment shall be required to receive an endorsement for  
34 certification purposes.

35 (4) The Washington professional educator standards board may permit  
36 exceptions from the assessment requirements under subsections (1), (2),  
37 and (3) of this section on a case-by-case basis.

1 (5) The Washington professional educator standards board shall  
2 provide for reasonable accommodations for individuals who are required  
3 to take the assessments in subsection (1), (2), or (3) of this section  
4 if the individuals have learning or other disabilities.

5 (6) With the exception of applicants exempt from the requirements  
6 of subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section, an applicant must  
7 achieve a minimum assessment score or scores established by the  
8 Washington professional educator standards board on each of the  
9 assessments under subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section.

10 (7) The Washington professional educator standards board and  
11 superintendent of public instruction, as determined by the Washington  
12 professional educator standards board, may contract with one or more  
13 third parties for:

14 (a) The development, purchase, administration, scoring, and  
15 reporting of scores of the assessments established by the Washington  
16 professional educator standards board under subsections (1), (2), and  
17 (3) of this section;

18 (b) Related clerical and administrative activities; or

19 (c) Any combination of the purposes in this subsection.

20 (8) Applicants for admission to a Washington teacher preparation  
21 program and applicants for residency and professional certificates who  
22 are required to successfully complete one or more of the assessments  
23 under subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section, and who are  
24 charged a fee for the assessment by a third party contracted with under  
25 subsection (7) of this section, shall pay the fee charged by the  
26 contractor directly to the contractor. Such fees shall be reasonably  
27 related to the actual costs of the contractor in providing the  
28 assessment.

29 (9) The superintendent of public instruction is responsible for  
30 supervision and providing support services to administer this section.

31 (10) The Washington professional educator standards board shall  
32 collaboratively select or develop and implement the assessments and  
33 minimum assessment scores required under this section with the  
34 superintendent of public instruction and shall provide opportunities  
35 for representatives of other interested educational organizations to  
36 participate in the selection or development and implementation of such  
37 assessments in a manner deemed appropriate by the Washington  
38 professional educator standards board.

1           (11) The Washington professional educator standards board shall  
2 adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW that are reasonably necessary for  
3 the effective and efficient implementation of this section."

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4           On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "certification;" strike the  
5 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 28A.410.220; and  
6 creating a new section."

EFFECT: Removes language requiring PESB to submit tests and test scores to the legislature. Adds language that allows PESB to set acceptable score levels for teacher certification programs at no lower than the average national scores for the SAT or ACT.

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