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HOUSE BILL 1178

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Representatives Lytton, Maxwell, Santos, Seaquist, Reykdal, Sullivan, Fitzgibbon, Ryu, Pollet, Stanford, Tharinger, and Jinkins

Read first time 01/18/13. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to authorizing alternative assessments of basic  
2 skills for teacher certification; amending RCW 28A.410.220; and  
3 creating a new section.

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

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

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

18 (1)(a) Beginning not later than September 1, 2001, the Washington

1 professional educator standards board shall make available and pilot a  
2 means of assessing an applicant's knowledge in the basic skills. For  
3 the purposes of this section, "basic skills" means the subjects of at  
4 least reading, writing, and mathematics. Beginning September 1, 2002,  
5 except as provided in (c) and (d) of this subsection and subsection (4)  
6 of this section, passing this assessment shall be required for  
7 admission to approved teacher preparation programs and for persons from  
8 out-of-state applying for a Washington state residency teaching  
9 certificate.

10 (b) On an individual student basis, approved teacher preparation  
11 programs may admit into their programs a candidate who has not achieved  
12 the minimum basic skills assessment score established by the Washington  
13 professional educator standards board. Individuals so admitted may not  
14 receive residency certification without passing the basic skills  
15 assessment under this section.

16 (c) The Washington professional educator standards board may  
17 establish criteria to ensure that persons from out-of-state who are  
18 applying for residency certification and persons applying to master's  
19 degree level teacher preparation programs can demonstrate to the  
20 board's satisfaction that they have the requisite basic skills based  
21 upon having completed another basic skills assessment acceptable to the  
22 Washington professional educator standards board or by some other  
23 alternative approved by the Washington professional educator standards  
24 board.

25 (d) The Washington professional educator standards board may  
26 identify and accept other tests and test scores as long as the tests  
27 are comparable in rigor to the basic skills assessment and candidates  
28 meet or exceed the basic skills requirements established by the board.  
29 The board must submit any other tests and test scores under this  
30 subsection (1)(d) to the education committees of the legislature for  
31 review and must provide an opportunity for the legislature to act  
32 before the tests are implemented.

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

1 (3) Beginning not later than September 1, 2002, the Washington  
2 professional educator standards board shall provide for the initial  
3 piloting and implementation of a means of assessing an applicant's  
4 knowledge in the subjects for which the applicant has applied for an  
5 endorsement to his or her residency or professional teaching  
6 certificate. The assessment of subject knowledge shall not include  
7 instructional methodology. Beginning September 1, 2005, passing this  
8 assessment shall be required to receive an endorsement for  
9 certification purposes.

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

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

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

22 (7) The Washington professional educator standards board and  
23 superintendent of public instruction, as determined by the Washington  
24 professional educator standards board, may contract with one or more  
25 third parties for:

26 (a) The development, purchase, administration, scoring, and  
27 reporting of scores of the assessments established by the Washington  
28 professional educator standards board under subsections (1), (2), and  
29 (3) of this section;

30 (b) Related clerical and administrative activities; or

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

32 (8) Applicants for admission to a Washington teacher preparation  
33 program and applicants for residency and professional certificates who  
34 are required to successfully complete one or more of the assessments  
35 under subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section, and who are  
36 charged a fee for the assessment by a third party contracted with under  
37 subsection (7) of this section, shall pay the fee charged by the

1 contractor directly to the contractor. Such fees shall be reasonably  
2 related to the actual costs of the contractor in providing the  
3 assessment.

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

6 (10) The Washington professional educator standards board shall  
7 collaboratively select or develop and implement the assessments and  
8 minimum assessment scores required under this section with the  
9 superintendent of public instruction and shall provide opportunities  
10 for representatives of other interested educational organizations to  
11 participate in the selection or development and implementation of such  
12 assessments in a manner deemed appropriate by the Washington  
13 professional educator standards board.

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

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