
HOUSE BILL 2686

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Representatives Pettigrew, Haler, Sullivan, Jinkins, Gregerson, and Freeman

Read first time 01/27/14. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring public schools to provide tap water to
2 students during school lunches; adding a new section to chapter 28A.235
3 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

6 (a) Fluoridation of community water supplies is the single most
7 effective public health measure to prevent dental decay;

8 (b) Studies indicate that water fluoridation continues to be
9 effective in reducing dental decay by twenty to forty percent, even in
10 an era with widespread availability of fluoride from other sources such
11 as toothpaste;

12 (c) One serving of fruit juice contains fourteen grams of sugar,
13 and one cup of skim milk contains twelve grams of sugar;

14 (d) Added sugars have been linked to obesity and weight gain;
15 weight gain increases the risk of getting heart disease, diabetes, high
16 blood pressure, and some types of cancer; and

17 (e) Nutrition advocates believe that school children's access to
18 water is a national problem the federal government has only begun to
19 address.

1 (2) Therefore the legislature intends to promote drinking water to
2 replace high sugar beverages and enable public school students to
3 easily access tap water during scheduled lunch periods.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.235
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
7 section, unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

8 (a) "Cup" means a small open container made of paper, plastic, or
9 other materials whose primary purpose is to serve as a receptacle from
10 which to drink.

11 (b) "Lunch period" means the scheduled time during the middle of
12 the school day set aside for students to eat and drink a meal.

13 (c) "Tap water" means water from a publicly accessible water source
14 within a school building. Tap water may include bottled water only if
15 the source is generally accessible to all students. Tap water does not
16 include individual, commercially produced bottles of water.

17 (2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, each
18 public school must provide enrolled students with access to tap water,
19 in cups provided for this purpose, during scheduled school lunch
20 periods.

21 (3) The requirements of this section do not apply to schools that
22 serve school lunches in their classrooms.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 2 of this act takes effect September
24 1, 2014.

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