

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5805

As of February 11, 2015

Title: An act relating to conflict resolution programs in schools.

Brief Description: Concerning conflict resolution programs in schools.

Sponsors: Senators Rivers, Rolfes and Keiser.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Early Learning & K-12 Education: 2/10/15.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

Staff: Ailey Kato (786-7434)

Background: Current law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Office of the Attorney General, in cooperation with the Washington State Bar Association, to develop a volunteer-based conflict resolution and mediation program for use in community groups such as neighborhood organizations and public schools. The program must use lawyers to train students who in turn become trainers and mediators for their peers in conflict resolution.

Summary of Bill: Statewide dispute resolution organizations are added to the list of developers of the volunteer-based conflict resolution and mediation program. The program must use lawyers or certified mediators to train students.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This program is a great way to develop conflict resolution at the school level and help kids as they grow. Dedicated professional mediators will help reenergize this program. This program teaches students conflict positive skills, which helps build strong self-confidence. Peer mediation and conflict programs help

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students learn what conflict is and how to recognize the roots of conflict, so they can address conflict in healthy and productive ways. This program educates the whole student.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Rivers, prime sponsor; Mary Hancock, Resolution WA.