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HOUSE BILL 1621

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State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Ybarra, Steele, Santos, Harris, Bergquist, Ortiz-Self, and Jenkins; by request of Professional Educator Standards Board

Read first time 01/25/19. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to basic skills assessments for approved teacher  
2 preparation programs; and amending RCW 28A.410.220.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.410.220 and 2013 c 193 s 2 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) (a) ~~((Beginning not later than September 1, 2001,))~~ The  
7 Washington professional educator standards board shall make available  
8 and pilot a means of assessing an applicant's knowledge in the basic  
9 skills. For the purposes of this section, "basic skills" means the  
10 subjects of at least reading, writing, and mathematics. ~~((Beginning  
11 September 1, 2002, except as provided in (c) and (d) of this  
12 subsection and subsection (4) of this section, passing))~~ An applicant  
13 must take this basic skills assessment ((shall be required)), or an  
14 alternative or equivalent basic skills assessment as determined by  
15 the Washington professional educator standards board, and report the  
16 individual results to the state and approved teacher preparation  
17 program, for admission to an approved teacher preparation program((s  
18 and for persons from out-of-state applying for a Washington state  
19 residency teaching certificate)).

20 (b) ~~((On an individual student basis,))~~ Approved teacher  
21 preparation programs may ((admit into their programs a candidate who

1 ~~has not achieved the minimum basic skills assessment score~~  
2 ~~established)) use the results of the basic skills assessment, or an~~  
3 ~~alternative or equivalent basic skills assessment as determined by~~  
4 ~~the Washington professional educator standards board, as a formative~~  
5 ~~assessment of academic strengths and weakness in determining the~~  
6 ~~candidate's readiness for teacher preparation programs. ((Individuals~~  
7 ~~so admitted may not receive residency certification without passing~~  
8 ~~the basic skills assessment under this section.))~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 ~~(7))~~ The Washington professional educator standards board and  
15 superintendent of public instruction, as determined by the Washington  
16 professional educator standards board, may contract with one or more  
17 third parties for:

18 (a) The development, purchase, administration, scoring, and  
19 reporting of scores of the assessments established by the Washington  
20 professional educator standards board under subsections (1), (2), and  
21 (3) of this section;

22 (b) Related clerical and administrative activities; or

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

24 ~~((8))~~ (7) Applicants for admission to a Washington teacher  
25 preparation program and applicants for residency and professional  
26 certificates who are required to successfully complete one or more of  
27 the assessments under subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section,  
28 and who are charged a fee for the assessment by a third party  
29 contracted with under subsection ~~((7))~~ (6) of this section, shall  
30 pay the fee charged by the contractor directly to the contractor.  
31 Such fees shall be reasonably related to the actual costs of the  
32 contractor in providing the assessment.

33 ~~((9))~~ (8) The superintendent of public instruction is  
34 responsible for supervision and providing support services to  
35 administer this section.

36 ~~((10))~~ (9) The Washington professional educator standards board  
37 shall collaboratively select or develop and implement the applicable  
38 assessments and minimum assessment scores required under this section  
39 with the superintendent of public instruction and shall provide  
40 opportunities for representatives of other interested educational

1 organizations to participate in the selection or development and  
2 implementation of such assessments in a manner deemed appropriate by  
3 the Washington professional educator standards board.

4 (~~(11)~~) (10) The Washington professional educator standards  
5 board shall adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW that are reasonably  
6 necessary for the effective and efficient implementation of this  
7 section.

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