

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5376**

67th Legislature  
2022 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate March 7, 2022  
Yeas 47 Nays 1

---

**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House February 26, 2022  
Yeas 94 Nays 1

---

**Speaker of the House of  
Representatives**

Approved

---

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5376** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

---

**Secretary**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

---

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5376**

---

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2022 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      67th Legislature                      2021 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Wilson, C., Wellman, Conway, Das, Hunt, Kuderer, Lias, Nobles, and Saldaña)

READ FIRST TIME 02/09/21.

1            AN ACT Relating to promoting awareness of the governor's office  
2 of the education ombuds; adding a new section to chapter 28A.600 RCW;  
3 adding a new section to chapter 28A.190 RCW; adding a new section to  
4 chapter 28A.710 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.715 RCW;  
5 and creating a new section.

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

7            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    (1) The legislature recognizes that the  
8 office of the education ombuds within the office of the governor was  
9 established by the legislature in 2006 to reduce educational  
10 opportunity gaps by supporting families, students, educators, and  
11 communities in understanding the K-12 school system and resolving  
12 concerns collaboratively. The legislature recognizes that it placed  
13 the education ombuds within the office of the governor to ensure  
14 independence and impartiality.

15            (2) The legislature further recognizes that the education ombuds  
16 provides services including:

17            (a) Informing students, parents or guardians, employees, and  
18 members of the public about the state's public elementary and  
19 secondary education system;

20            (b) Identifying obstacles and recommending strategies to help  
21 students and community members to participate effectively in schools;

1 (c) Identifying and recommending strategies for improving student  
2 success;

3 (d) Referring individuals and families to appropriate resources,  
4 agencies, or departments;

5 (e) Facilitating the resolution of informal complaints made by  
6 parents and students with regard to the state's public elementary and  
7 secondary education system; and

8 (f) Serving as the lead agency to provide resources and tools to  
9 parents and families about public school antiharassment policies and  
10 strategies.

11 (3) The legislature intends for public schools to annually notify  
12 parents or guardians, students, and school employees about these  
13 services.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.600  
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) Beginning August 1, 2023, public schools must:

17 (a) Provide students and their parents or guardians with a  
18 description of the services available through the office of the  
19 education ombuds and the contact information for the office of the  
20 education ombuds at the time of initial enrollment or admission; and

21 (b) Either: (i) Include on their website a description of the  
22 services available through the office of the education ombuds and a  
23 link to the website of the office of the education ombuds; or (ii)  
24 provide a description of the services available through the office of  
25 the education ombuds and the contact information for the office of  
26 the education ombuds in existing materials that are shared annually  
27 with families, students, and school employees, such as welcome  
28 packets, orientation guides, and newsletters.

29 (2) Public schools are encouraged to comply with both subsection  
30 (1)(b)(i) and (ii) of this section.

31 (3) By July 1, 2022, the office of the education ombuds must  
32 develop a template of the information described in subsection (1) of  
33 this section. The template must be translated into Spanish and into  
34 other languages as resources allow. The template must be made  
35 available upon request and updated as needed.

36 (4) For the purposes of this section, "public schools" has the  
37 same meaning as in RCW 28A.150.010.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    A new section is added to chapter 28A.190  
2    RCW to read as follows:

3        Institutional education providers must comply with the  
4    requirements in section 2(1) of this act, related to provision of  
5    information about the office of the education ombuds.

6        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    A new section is added to chapter 28A.710  
7    RCW to read as follows:

8        Section 2 (1) and (2) of this act, related to provision of  
9    information about the office of the education ombuds, governs school  
10   operation and management under RCW 28A.710.040 and apply to charter  
11   schools established under this chapter.

12       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    A new section is added to chapter 28A.715  
13   RCW to read as follows:

14       Section 2 (1) and (2) of this act, related to provision of  
15   information about the office of the education ombuds, governs school  
16   operation and management under RCW 28A.715.020 and apply to state-  
17   tribal education compact schools established under this chapter.

--- END ---