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**HOUSE BILL 1658**

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**State of Washington                      68th Legislature                      2023 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Shavers, Santos, Morgan, Ramel, Taylor, and Ormsby

Read first time 01/30/23. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to authorizing public high school students to  
2 earn elective credit for paid work experience; adding a new section  
3 to chapter 28A.600 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    The purpose of a high school diploma as  
6 established in RCW 28A.230.090 is to declare that a student is ready  
7 for success in postsecondary education, gainful employment, and  
8 citizenship, and is equipped with the skills to be a lifelong  
9 learner.

10           The state board of education developed a profile of a graduate to  
11 clarify the skills, knowledge, attributes, and competencies  
12 indicating that a student is ready to transition successfully to life  
13 after high school. These indicators include: Effective communication  
14 in multiple modes and to multiple audiences; interdisciplinary  
15 application of core academic concepts and principles; critical and  
16 creative reasoning and problem solving; and navigation and exercise  
17 of life and civic responsibilities.

18           The legislature finds that paid work experiences can provide  
19 students with an opportunity to demonstrate the ability to cultivate  
20 personal growth and knowledge by setting personally meaningful goals  
21 and applying learning in new contexts as well as to master essential

1 life skills and exercise self-agency by developing competence in  
2 personal finance and in taking initiative. Therefore, the legislature  
3 intends to authorize the granting of elective credit for paid work.

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

6 (1) Beginning in the 2023-24 school year and in accordance with  
7 the requirements of this section, public high school students age 16  
8 years and older may earn elective high school credit through paid  
9 work experience.

10 (2) Proposals for earning elective high school credit through  
11 paid work experience must:

12 (a) Be approved in advance and in writing by: The applicable  
13 school counselor or principal; and a work-based sponsor who will  
14 serve as the point of contact for the employer and participate in  
15 supervising the student during the student's employment;

16 (b) Align with the student's high school and beyond plan required  
17 by RCW 28A.230.090;

18 (c) Include a student narrative describing how the paid work  
19 experience will enable the student to develop the knowledge and  
20 skills necessary to meet the goals of basic education, including and  
21 in particular those essential to understanding the importance of work  
22 and finance and how performance, effort, and decisions directly  
23 affect future career and educational opportunities as provided in RCW  
24 28A.150.210(4); and

25 (d) Include provisions for demonstrating or otherwise assessing  
26 the student's:

27 (i) Grade-level proficiencies on the state financial education  
28 learning standards for employment and income or financial decisions  
29 as provided in the state financial education learning standards  
30 adopted in RCW 28A.300.469; and

31 (ii) Growth in proficiency in meeting the state financial  
32 education learning standards as measured from prework to postwork  
33 experience assessments.

34 (3) One elective high school credit will be awarded for each 360  
35 hours of paid and verified work experience to students who, as  
36 determined by the appropriate school official, meet the requirements  
37 of this section. High school credit may not be awarded for paid work  
38 experiences occurring before the approval required by subsection (2)

1 of this section. No student may earn more than two elective high  
2 school credits under this section.

3 (4) Proposals for earning elective high school credit through  
4 paid work experience may only be approved at high schools that  
5 provide students with the opportunity to learn and master the state  
6 financial education learning standards adopted in RCW 28A.300.469.

7 (5) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
8 adopt and may periodically revise rules to implement this section. No  
9 school may approve a student's proposal for earning elective high  
10 school credit through paid work experience under this section before  
11 rules required by this subsection have been adopted.

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