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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2398**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Walsh, Couture, Eslick, and Jacobsen)

READ FIRST TIME 01/31/24.

1       AN ACT Relating to requiring parent representation on  
2 instructional materials committees; amending RCW 28A.320.230; and  
3 creating a new section.

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

5       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that parents are the  
6 primary stakeholders in the upbringing of their children. In order to  
7 support and encourage that good upbringing, parental involvement is  
8 essential. The legislature intends to make it easier for parents and  
9 immediate family members to be involved directly and actively in what  
10 their children learn and read at school.

11       **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.320.230 and 1989 c 371 s 1 are each amended to  
12 read as follows:

13       Every board of directors, unless otherwise specifically provided  
14 by law, shall:

15       (1) Prepare, negotiate, set forth in writing and adopt, policy  
16 relative to the selection or deletion of instructional materials.  
17 Such policy shall:

18       (a) State the school district's goals and principles relative to  
19 instructional materials;

1 (b) Delegate responsibility for the preparation and  
2 recommendation of teachers' reading lists and specify the procedures  
3 to be followed in the selection of all instructional materials  
4 including text books;

5 (c) (i) Establish an instructional materials committee to be  
6 appointed, with the approval of the school board, by the school  
7 district's chief administrative officer. This committee shall consist  
8 of ~~((representative))~~: (A) Representative members of the district's  
9 professional staff, including representation from the district's  
10 curriculum development committees ~~((, and, in))~~; (B) one or more  
11 parents of students, with the parent members equaling less than one-  
12 half of the total membership of the committee; and (C) in the case of  
13 districts which operate elementary school(s) only, the educational  
14 service district superintendent, one of whose responsibilities shall  
15 be to assure the correlation of those elementary district adoptions  
16 with those of the high school district(s) which serve their children.  
17 ~~((The committee may include parents at the school board's discretion;~~  
18 ~~PROVIDED, That parent members shall make up less than one-half of the~~  
19 ~~total membership of the committee)) School districts shall ensure  
20 equitable opportunity for participation on instructional materials  
21 committees by parents of enrolled students that reflect the  
22 demographics and learning needs in the district;~~

23 (ii) School districts with fewer than 2,000 enrolled students  
24 that are unable to recruit parents to serve on an instructional  
25 materials committee are exempt from the requirement in (i) of this  
26 subsection (c) to have one or more parent members on the committee;

27 (d) Provide for reasonable notice to parents of the opportunity  
28 to serve on the committee and for terms of office for members of the  
29 instructional materials committee;

30 (e) Provide a system for receiving, considering and acting upon  
31 written complaints regarding instructional materials used by the  
32 school district;

33 (f) Provide free text books, supplies and other instructional  
34 materials to be loaned to the pupils of the school, when, in its  
35 judgment, the best interests of the district will be subserved  
36 thereby and prescribe rules and regulations to preserve such books,  
37 supplies and other instructional materials from unnecessary damage.

38 Recommendation of instructional materials shall be by the  
39 district's instructional materials committee in accordance with

1 district policy. Approval or disapproval shall be by the local school  
2 district's board of directors.

3 Districts may pay the necessary travel and subsistence expenses  
4 for expert counsel from outside the district. In addition, the  
5 committee's expenses incidental to visits to observe other districts'  
6 selection procedures may be reimbursed by the school district.

7 Districts may, within limitations stated in board policy, use and  
8 experiment with instructional materials for a period of time before  
9 general adoption is formalized.

10 Within the limitations of board policy, a school district's chief  
11 administrator may purchase instructional materials to meet deviant  
12 needs or rapidly changing circumstances.

13 (2) Establish a depreciation scale for determining the value of  
14 texts which students wish to purchase.

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