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**SENATE BILL 5264**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Wellman, C. Wilson, Hasegawa, Kuderer, Lovick, Nguyen, Nobles, and Shewmake; by request of Professional Educator Standards Board

Read first time 01/11/23. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to minimum employment requirements for  
2 paraeducators; amending RCW 28A.413.040; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.413.040 and 2018 c 153 s 1 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1)(a) A person working as a paraeducator for a school district  
7 before or during the 2017-18 school year must meet the requirements  
8 of subsection (2) of this section by the date of hire for the 2019-20  
9 school year or any subsequent school year.

10 (b) A person who has not previously worked as a paraeducator for  
11 a school district must meet the requirements of subsection (2) of  
12 this section by the date of hire for the 2018-19 school year or any  
13 subsequent school year.

14 (2) The minimum employment requirements for paraeducators are as  
15 provided in this subsection. A paraeducator must:

16 (a) Be at least ~~((eighteen))~~ 18 years of age and hold a high  
17 school diploma or its equivalent; and

18 (b)(i) Have received a passing grade on ~~((the education testing  
19 service paraeducator assessment))~~ an assessment approved by the  
20 board; ~~((or))~~

21 (ii) Hold an associate of arts degree; ~~((or))~~

1 (iii) Have earned (~~seventy-two~~) 72 quarter credits or (~~forty-~~  
2 ~~eight~~) 48 semester credits at an institution of higher education; or  
3 (iv) Have completed a registered apprenticeship program.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
5 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of  
6 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
7 effect immediately.

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