
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1677

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Quall, Rodne, Dunshee, Ormsby, B. Sullivan, Hurst, Chase, Hunt, P. Sullivan, Pettigrew, Lovick, Jarrett, McCoy, Anderson, Upthegrove, Santos, Sells, Conway and Rolfes)

READ FIRST TIME 02/27/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to outdoor education and recreation; adding a new
2 section to chapter 79A.05 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature to
5 establish an outdoor education and recreation program to provide a
6 large number of underserved students with quality opportunities to
7 directly experience the natural world. It is the intent of the program
8 to improve students' overall academic performance, self-esteem,
9 personal responsibility, community involvement, personal health, and
10 understanding of nature. Further, it is the intent of the program to
11 empower local communities to engage students in outdoor education and
12 recreation experiences.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 79A.05 RCW
14 to read as follows:

15 (1) The outdoor education and recreation grant program is hereby
16 created, subject to the availability of funds in the outdoor education
17 and recreation account. The commission shall establish and implement
18 the program by rule to provide opportunities for public agencies,

1 private nonprofit organizations, formal school programs, nonformal
2 after-school programs, and community-based programs to receive grants
3 from the account. Programs that provide outdoor education
4 opportunities to schools shall be fully aligned with the state's
5 essential academic learning requirements.

6 (2) The program shall be phased in beginning with the schools and
7 students with the greatest needs in suburban, rural, and urban areas of
8 the state. The program shall focus on students who qualify for free
9 and reduced-price lunch, who are most likely to fail academically, or
10 who have the greatest potential to drop out of school.

11 (3) The director shall set priorities and develop criteria for the
12 awarding of grants to outdoor education and recreation programs
13 considering at least the following:

14 (a) Programs that contribute to the reduction of academic failure
15 and dropout rates;

16 (b) Programs that make use of research-based, effective
17 environmental education curriculum and best practices;

18 (c) Programs that contribute to healthy life styles through outdoor
19 recreation and sound nutrition;

20 (d) Various Washington state parks as venues and use of the
21 commission's personnel as a resource;

22 (e) Programs that maximize the number of participants that can be
23 served;

24 (f) Programs that will commit matching and in-kind resources;

25 (g) Programs that create partnerships with public and private
26 entities;

27 (h) Programs that provide students with opportunities to directly
28 experience and understand nature and the natural world; and

29 (i) Programs that include ongoing program evaluation, assessment,
30 and reporting of their effectiveness.

31 (4) The director shall create an advisory committee to assist and
32 advise the commission in the development and administration of the
33 outdoor education and recreation program. The director should solicit
34 representation on the committee from the office of the superintendent
35 of public instruction, the department of fish and wildlife, the
36 business community, outdoor organizations with an interest in
37 education, and any others the commission deems sufficient to ensure a
38 cross section of stakeholders. When the director creates such an

1 advisory committee, its members shall be reimbursed from the outdoor
2 education and recreation program account for travel expenses as
3 provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

4 (5) The outdoor education and recreation program account is created
5 in the custody of the state treasurer. Funds deposited in the outdoor
6 education and recreation program account shall be transferred only to
7 the commission to be used solely for the commission's outdoor education
8 and recreation program purposes identified in this section including
9 the administration of the program. The director may accept gifts,
10 grants, donations, or moneys from any source for deposit in the outdoor
11 education and recreation program account. Any public agency in this
12 state may develop and implement outdoor education and recreation
13 programs. The director may make grants to public agencies and contract
14 with any public or private agency or person to develop and implement
15 outdoor education and recreation programs. The outdoor education and
16 recreation program account is subject to allotment procedures under
17 chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for
18 expenditures.

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