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HOUSE BILL 3152

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Roach, Sells, Hurst, McCune, Haler, Morris, Jarrett, Priest, Williams, Goodman, Morrell, Darneille, Ericks, Rodne, Kelley, Walsh, Ross, Warnick, Kenney, Ahern, and Ormsby

Read first time 01/23/08. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to autism awareness instruction for teachers of  
2 students with autism; and adding a new section to chapter 28A.155 RCW.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.155  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6            (1) The professional educator standards board, in consultation with  
7 the office of the superintendent of public instruction, the autism task  
8 force, and representatives from state and nonprofit agencies that  
9 promote autism awareness and provide programs and services for people  
10 with autism, shall develop autism awareness and training policy  
11 guidelines for schools to ensure that teachers responsible for autistic  
12 children are well-prepared and up-to-date on the most effective methods  
13 of teaching children with autism.

14            (2) The autism awareness and training policy guidelines shall  
15 ensure, but need not be limited to requiring that:

16            (a) A candidate for a Washington instructional certificate  
17 satisfactorily complete instruction in autism awareness and methods of  
18 teaching students with autism at an accredited institution of higher  
19 education;

1 (b) A person seeking certification through an alternate route,  
2 within one year of being employed, satisfactorily complete instruction  
3 in autism awareness and methods for teaching students with autism at an  
4 accredited institution of higher education; and

5 (c) All teachers not subject to (a) or (b) of this subsection be  
6 required to pursue instruction in autism awareness and methods for  
7 teaching students with autism by the 2010-11 school year as part of the  
8 professional development requirement established by the professional  
9 educator standards board.

10 (3) By September 1, 2008, the professional educator standards board  
11 shall develop recommendations for autism awareness instruction and  
12 methods of teaching students with autism for all teacher preparation  
13 and professional development programs and shall submit the  
14 recommendations to the governor and the education committees of the  
15 legislature.

16 (4) By December 1, 2008, the superintendent of public instruction  
17 shall report the policy guidelines to school districts for the  
18 districts to use to develop and adopt their policies.

19 (5) By April 1, 2009, each school district shall use the guidelines  
20 developed under subsection (1) of this section to develop and adopt a  
21 school district policy for each school in the district to ensure that  
22 teachers are well-prepared and up-to-date on the most effective methods  
23 of teaching children with autism.

24 (6) Guidelines adopted by school districts under this section shall  
25 also apply to classified staff seeking a special education endorsement  
26 or certification, or both.

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