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SENATE BILL 6942

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2008 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Brandland, Eide, Schoesler, Marr, and King

Read first time 02/11/08. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to paraeducator professional development; adding a  
2 new section to chapter 28A.400 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds:

5            (a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction  
6 recognizes the accomplishments of classroom paraeducators to attain  
7 professional growth development standards in order to increase  
8 students' learning achievement; and

9            (b) There is a growing need to provide support for regular  
10 education students who have been identified as not meeting state  
11 academic standards. Highly trained paraeducators can have a  
12 significant impact on those students who fall short of grade level  
13 standards but do not meet the criteria to qualify for special education  
14 or Title I resources. Increasing the knowledge and skills of  
15 paraeducators will result in students reaching their highest potential.

16            (2) The purpose of this act is to develop a program for  
17 paraeducators to increase their knowledge of learning disabilities,  
18 addressing different learning styles, teaching strategies, and decoding  
19 skills, which will result in a positive impact on student achievement.

1 The incentive provided by this act for paraeducators to pursue high  
2 quality professional development opportunities will result in providing  
3 assistance to students' learning needs and effectively help students  
4 meet challenging academic standards.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.400  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) Paraeducators who have met the eligibility requirements and  
8 have applied to the office of the superintendent of public instruction  
9 for certification shall receive additional compensation as a  
10 nonnegotiable state bonus of five hundred dollars or one percent of the  
11 annual contracted salary amount, whichever is greater.

12 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules  
13 establishing paraeducator certification requirements. Certification  
14 shall be for five-year periods.

15 (3) In order to maintain paraeducator certification, a certificated  
16 paraeducator must enroll in additional professional development courses  
17 offered by the office of the superintendent of public instruction's  
18 summer institutes and winter conferences, thereby maximizing the  
19 effectiveness of providing the resources for students to achieve state  
20 standards, and reach their highest possible academic potential.

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