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HOUSE BILL 1649

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State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Hope, Kagi, Kristiansen, Van De Wege, and Hasegawa

Read first time 01/26/09. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to including financial education in social studies  
2 courses required for high school graduation; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 28A.230 RCW; and 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 a lack of  
6 statewide learning standards for financial literacy and personal  
7 financial education has resulted in inconsistent teaching techniques,  
8 curriculum, and assessment of student competencies.    In 2008,  
9 Washington high school seniors could correctly answer fewer than half  
10 of the questions on a nationally administered survey on personal money  
11 management.    Standards have been developed by national organizations  
12 with expertise in personal financial education and should be reviewed  
13 and considered for statewide adoption in Washington.    However, to  
14 minimize additional burden on school districts and students,  
15 instruction in financial literacy and personal financial education  
16 should be included within an expansion of graduation requirements  
17 rather than separately imposed.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 28A.230  
2    RCW to read as follows:  
3        The state board of education shall convene a temporary work group  
4    to examine available financial literacy and personal financial  
5    education learning standards and shall recommend a set of standards for  
6    adoption by the superintendent of public instruction.    The work group  
7    shall also advise the state board of education on the minimum content  
8    to be required of all high school graduates.    The temporary work group  
9    must consist of representatives from the office of the superintendent  
10   of public instruction, the department of financial institutions, the  
11   financial literacy public-private partnership, and educators and  
12   representatives of the private financial sector with expertise in  
13   financial education.  
14        The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt essential  
15   academic learning requirements and grade level expectations for  
16   financial literacy and personal financial education based on the  
17   recommendations from the state board of education.    The superintendent  
18   of public instruction shall also develop and disseminate to school  
19   districts for voluntary use, classroom-based assessments that measure  
20   student performance on the essential academic learning requirements and  
21   grade level expectations.  
22        By July 1, 2010, the state board of education shall, under RCW  
23   28A.230.090, amend the high school graduation requirement to include  
24   instruction in financial literacy and personal financial education.  
25   The requirement must permit the instruction as part of social studies,  
26   career and technical education, or mathematics coursework.

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