Washington State House of Representatives Office of Program Research



Education Committee

SB 5174

Brief Description: Encouraging instruction in the history of civil rights.

Sponsors: Senators Chase, McAuliffe, Prentice, Nelson, Kohl-Welles, Shin and Kline.

Brief Summary of Bill

• Encourages school districts to conduct a program at least annually to commemorate the history of civil rights.

Hearing Date: 3/11/11

Staff: Barbara McLain (786-7383).

Background:

Although most decisions about supplemental educational activities are made by local school districts, there are state laws that require schools to conduct educational activities on a particular topic. For example, each January 16 school districts are required to observe Temperance and Good Citizenship Day. Annually during the month of October, each school must conduct educational activities that provide awareness and understanding of disability history and people with disabilities. Educational activities must be presented that are suitable for the observation of Veteran's Day.

Summary of Bill:

School districts are encouraged to conduct a program at least once a year to commemorate the history of civil rights, including providing an opportunity for students to learn about the personalities and convictions of heroes of the civil rights movement, and the importance of the promise of equality under the United States Constitution.

Appropriation: None.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

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