

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5537

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Education, February 7, 1995

**Title:** An act relating to teacher preparation.

**Brief Description:** Changing teacher preparation provisions.

**Sponsors:** Senators McAuliffe, Pelz, Rasmussen, Kohl and Wojahn; by request of Board of Education.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Education: 1/27/95, 2/7/95 [DPS].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5537 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators McAuliffe, Chair; Pelz, Vice Chair; Finkbeiner, Gaspard, Hochstatter, Johnson and Rasmussen.

**Staff:** Leslie Goldstein (786-7424)

**Background:** The State Board of Education adopts rules establishing the procedures for becoming a teacher in the state of Washington. Before entering a teacher preparation program approved by the State Board, applicants who do not at least have a bachelor's degree must successfully pass a basic skills test and have a score equal to the statewide median score on a general skills test. Upon successfully completing the approved teacher preparation program, the person is eligible for initial certification as a teacher.

Teacher candidates are not required to pass an examination before becoming a certificated teacher. The State Board is only authorized to develop an assessment for teacher candidates if the Legislature specifically appropriates funds to cover the cost of developing an assessment.

**Summary of Substitute Bill:** Basic Skills Test: The requirements for admission to teacher preparation programs are changed. Applicants are no longer required to have at least the statewide median score on a general achievement test. Specific waivers for the basic skills test are deleted, but the State Board may establish waivers by rule.

Repeal of Miscellaneous Statutes: The following statutes either encouraging or requiring the State Board to take certain actions are repealed: 1) encouraging instruction in child abuse issues in teacher preparation programs; 2) requiring the board to review ways to strengthen cooperative agreements between public schools and institutions of higher education; 3) requiring plans to increase interactions between higher education faculty and K-12 teachers;

4) requiring review of the interstate agreement on the qualifications of educational personnel; and 5) creating an administrator internship task force.

The statute requiring The Evergreen State College to establish an extension department for teacher training and in-service is repealed.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** The section authorizing the State Board of Education to implement an assessment for teacher candidates is removed from the original bill. Current law remains unchanged.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 25, 1995.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** This legislation would give the State Board additional authority to align teacher preparation standards with education reform, including whether or not to implement a teacher assessment and waivers for the basic skills test. Statutes which are no longer needed are repealed. The State Board will still require teacher preparation faculty to spend time in K-12 classrooms.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** PRO: Kathleen Anderson, member, State Board of Education; Sarah Cross, student, Washington State University; Janice Kido, Washington Association of Colleges for Teacher Education.