

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6707

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
Education, February 2, 1996

Title: An act relating to the recruitment, preparation, and continuing education of vocational agriculture teachers.

Brief Description: Establishing the Washington state vocational agriculture teacher recruitment program.

Sponsors: Senators Rasmussen, Hochstatter, Goings, Finkbeiner, Winsley and A. Anderson.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Education: 2/1/96, 2/2/96 [DPS].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 6707 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators McAuliffe, Chair; Goings, Finkbeiner, Hochstatter, Johnson and Rasmussen.

Staff: Susan Mielke (786-7422)

Background: Agriculture has been and continues to be an important industry of Washington State. However, the number of persons entering the field of vocational agricultural education is declining. One way to reverse this decline is through a teacher recruitment program.

Summary of Substitute Bill: The State Board of Education (SBE) must design a Washington State Vocational Agriculture Teacher Recruitment Program. When designing the program, the SBE must consult with: the Higher Education Coordinating Board; the institutions of higher education; organizations interested in teacher recruitment, agriculture education or agricultural business; the Superintendent of Public Instruction; the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges; and the Department of Agriculture. The purpose of the program is to recruit students in grades 9-12, and adults who entered other occupations, to become future vocational agriculture teachers.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill: An appropriation of \$49,500 is included in the substitute bill.

Appropriation: \$49,500.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 24, 1996.

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

Testimony For: Agriculture is an important industry to the economy of Washington State. In 1991, there were 26 openings for vocational agriculture teachers; in 1992, there were 38 openings; in 1993, there were 40 openings; and in 1994, there were 52 openings. In each of the last five years, there have been less than ten graduates from the only in-state higher education vocational agriculture education program at Washington State University. What will happen to the state's economy if strong agriculture education is not continued?

Vocational agriculture curriculum addresses not only the many different aspects of agriculture, but also provides leadership components and skills that can transfer to other subject areas. Students who participate in a vocational agriculture program prepare for jobs not only in agriculture, but business and other areas of work.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: PRO: Senator Rasmussen, prime sponsor; Tim Schneider, Jason Bodine, Josey Wickwire, Corry McCombs, Elma High School; Larry Davis, SBE.