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**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2695**

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**State of Washington**

**54th Legislature**

**1996 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Brumsickle and B. Thomas; by request of Joint Select Committee on Education Restructuring, Board of Education and Commission on Student Learning)

Read first time 02/02/96.

1       AN ACT Relating to modifying the timelines for the development and  
2 implementation of the student assessment system; reenacting and  
3 amending RCW 28A.630.885; creating a new section; repealing 1995 c 335  
4 s 803 (uncodified); and providing expiration dates.

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

6       **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.630.885 and 1995 c 335 s 505 and 1995 c 209 s 1  
7 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

8       (1) The Washington commission on student learning is hereby  
9 established. The primary purposes of the commission are to identify  
10 the knowledge and skills all public school students need to know and be  
11 able to do based on the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210, to  
12 develop student assessment and school accountability systems, to review  
13 current school district data reporting requirements and make  
14 recommendations on what data is necessary for the purposes of  
15 accountability and meeting state information needs, and to take other  
16 steps necessary to develop a performance-based education system. The  
17 commission shall include three members of the state board of education,  
18 three members appointed by the governor before July 1, 1992, and five  
19 members appointed no later than June 1, 1993, by the governor elected

1 in the November 1992 election. The governor shall appoint a chair from  
2 the commission members, and fill any vacancies in gubernatorial  
3 appointments that may occur. The state board of education shall fill  
4 any vacancies of state board of education appointments that may occur.  
5 In making the appointments, educators, business leaders, and parents  
6 shall be represented, and nominations from state-wide education,  
7 business, and parent organizations shall be requested. Efforts shall  
8 be made to ensure that the commission reflects the racial and ethnic  
9 diversity of the state's K-12 student population and that the major  
10 geographic regions in the state are represented. Appointees shall be  
11 qualified individuals who are supportive of educational restructuring,  
12 who have a positive record of service, and who will devote sufficient  
13 time to the responsibilities of the commission to ensure that the  
14 objectives of the commission are achieved.

15 (2) The commission shall establish advisory committees. Membership  
16 of the advisory committees shall include, but not necessarily be  
17 limited to, professionals from the office of the superintendent of  
18 public instruction and the state board of education, and other state  
19 and local educational practitioners and student assessment specialists.

20 (3) The commission, with the assistance of the advisory committees,  
21 shall:

22 (a) Develop essential academic learning requirements based on the  
23 student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210. Essential academic learning  
24 requirements shall be developed, to the extent possible, for each of  
25 the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210. Goals one and two shall  
26 be considered primary. Essential academic learning requirements for  
27 RCW 28A.150.210(1), goal one, and the mathematics component of RCW  
28 28A.150.210(2), goal two, shall be completed no later than March 1,  
29 1995. Essential academic learning requirements that incorporate the  
30 remainder of RCW 28A.150.210 (2), (3), and (4), goals two, three, and  
31 four, shall be completed no later than March 1, 1996. To the maximum  
32 extent possible, the commission shall integrate goal four and the  
33 knowledge and skill areas in the other goals in the development of the  
34 essential academic learning requirements;

35 (b)(i) The commission shall present to the state board of education  
36 and superintendent of public instruction a state-wide academic  
37 assessment system for use in the elementary, middle, and high school  
38 years designed to determine if each student has mastered the essential  
39 academic learning requirements identified in (a) of this subsection.

1 The academic assessment system shall include a variety of assessment  
2 methods that are criterion-referenced, including performance-based  
3 measures (~~((that are criterion-referenced))~~). Performance standards for  
4 determining if a student has successfully completed an assessment shall  
5 be initially determined by the commission in consultation with the  
6 advisory committees required in subsection (2) of this section.

7 (ii) The assessment system shall be designed so that the results  
8 under the assessment system are used by educators as tools to evaluate  
9 instructional practices, and to initiate appropriate educational  
10 support for students who have not mastered the essential academic  
11 learning requirements at the appropriate periods in the student's  
12 educational development.

13 (iii) Assessments measuring the essential academic learning  
14 requirements developed for RCW 28A.150.210(1), goal one, and the  
15 mathematics component of RCW 28A.150.210(2), goal two, shall be  
16 (~~((initially implemented by the state board of education and  
17 superintendent of public instruction no later than the 1996-97 school  
18 year,))~~) developed and initially implemented by the commission before  
19 transferring the assessment system to the superintendent of public  
20 instruction. For goal one and the mathematics component of goal two,  
21 the elementary assessment shall be available for use by districts no  
22 later than the 1996-97 school year, the middle grades assessment no  
23 later than the 1997-98 school year, and the high school assessment no  
24 later than the 1998-99 school year unless the legislature takes action  
25 to delay or prevent implementation of the assessment system and  
26 essential academic learning requirements. The assessment system shall  
27 be transferred to the superintendent of public instruction no later  
28 than June 30, 1999, for continued implementation. Assessments  
29 measuring the essential academic learning requirements developed for  
30 RCW 28A.150.210 (2) except mathematics, (3), and (4), goals two, three,  
31 and four, shall be ((initially implemented by the state board of  
32 education and)) developed and initially implemented by the commission  
33 before transferring the assessments to the superintendent of public  
34 instruction, unless the legislature takes action to delay or prevent  
35 implementation of the assessment system and essential academic learning  
36 requirements. The assessments shall be transferred to the  
37 superintendent of public instruction no later than ((the 1998-99 school  
38 year, unless the legislature takes action to delay or prevent

1 implementation of the assessment system and essential academic learning  
2 requirements)) June 30, 1999, for continued implementation.

3 The assessments in history, geography, civics, health, fitness, and  
4 the arts shall not include state-level assessments in the elementary  
5 grades, but shall include classroom-based assessments for voluntary  
6 use. However, by December 1, 2001, the state board of education shall  
7 make recommendations to the legislature regarding whether state-level  
8 assessments should be required for history, geography, civics, health,  
9 fitness, and the arts in the elementary grades.

10 The commission shall work closely with the superintendent of public  
11 instruction and the state board of education during the development and  
12 initial implementation of the assessment system. To the maximum extent  
13 possible, the commission shall integrate knowledge and skill areas in  
14 development of the assessments.

15 (iv) Before the 2000-2001 school year, participation by school  
16 districts in the assessment system shall be optional. School districts  
17 that desire to participate before the 2000-2001 school year shall  
18 notify the commission on student learning or the superintendent of  
19 public instruction, as appropriate, in a manner determined by the  
20 commission or superintendent. Beginning in the 2000-2001 school year,  
21 all school districts shall be required to participate in the assessment  
22 system.

23 (v) The commission on student learning may modify the essential  
24 academic learning requirements and the assessments, as needed, on or  
25 before June 30, 1999. The state board of education ((and  
26 superintendent of public instruction)) may modify the essential  
27 academic learning requirements ((and academic assessment system)), as  
28 needed, ((in subsequent school years)) after June 30, 1999, and the  
29 superintendent of public instruction may modify the academic assessment  
30 system, as needed, after June 30, 1999.

31 (vi) The commission shall develop assessments that are directly  
32 related to the essential academic learning requirements, and are not  
33 biased toward persons with different learning styles, racial or ethnic  
34 backgrounds, or on the basis of gender;

35 (c) After a determination is made by the state board of education  
36 that the high school assessment system has been implemented and that it  
37 is sufficiently reliable and valid, successful completion of the high  
38 school assessment shall lead to a certificate of mastery. The  
39 certificate of mastery shall be obtained by most students at about the

1 age of sixteen, and is evidence that the student has successfully  
2 mastered the essential academic learning requirements during his or her  
3 educational career. (~~The certificate of mastery shall be required for~~  
4 ~~graduation but shall not be the only requirement for graduation. The~~  
5 ~~commission shall make recommendations to the state board of education~~  
6 ~~regarding the relationship between the certificate of mastery and high~~  
7 ~~school graduation requirements.)) The state board of education and the  
8 commission shall make recommendations to the legislature regarding  
9 whether the certificate of mastery should be a graduation requirement.  
10 The certificate of mastery shall not be implemented as a state-wide  
11 graduation requirement until legislation is enacted directing the state  
12 board of education to make it a state-wide requirement. Upon achieving  
13 the certificate of mastery, schools shall provide students with the  
14 opportunity to continue to pursue career and educational objectives  
15 through educational pathways that emphasize integration of academic and  
16 vocational education. Educational pathways may include, but are not  
17 limited to, programs such as work-based learning, school-to-work  
18 transition, tech prep, vocational-technical education, running start,  
19 and preparation for technical college, community college, or university  
20 education;~~

21 (d) Consider methods to address the unique needs of special  
22 education students when developing the assessments in (b) and (c) of  
23 this subsection;

24 (e) Consider methods to address the unique needs of highly capable  
25 students when developing the assessments in (b) and (c) of this  
26 subsection;

27 (f) Develop recommendations on the time, support, and resources,  
28 including technical assistance, needed by schools and school districts  
29 to help students achieve the essential academic learning requirements.  
30 These recommendations shall include an estimate for the legislature,  
31 superintendent of public instruction, and governor on the expected cost  
32 of implementing the academic assessment system;

33 (g) Develop recommendations for consideration by the higher  
34 education coordinating board for adopting college and university  
35 entrance requirements for public school students that are consistent  
36 with the essential academic learning requirements and the certificate  
37 of mastery;

38 (h) Review current school district data reporting requirements for  
39 the purposes of accountability and meeting state information needs.

1 The commission on student learning shall report recommendations to the  
2 joint select committee on education restructuring by September 15,  
3 1996, on:

4 (i) What data is necessary to compare how school districts are  
5 performing before the essential academic learning requirements and the  
6 assessment system are implemented with how school districts are  
7 performing after the essential academic learning requirements and the  
8 assessment system are implemented; and

9 (ii) What data is necessary pertaining to school district reports  
10 under the accountability systems developed by the commission on student  
11 learning under this section;

12 (i) By June 30, 1999, recommend to the legislature, governor, state  
13 board of education, and superintendent of public instruction:

14 (i) A state-wide accountability system to monitor and evaluate  
15 accurately and fairly the level of learning occurring in individual  
16 schools and school districts. The accountability system shall be  
17 designed to recognize the characteristics of the student population of  
18 schools and school districts such as gender, race, ethnicity,  
19 socioeconomic status, and other factors. The system shall include  
20 school-site, school district, and state-level accountability reports;

21 (ii) A school assistance program to help schools and school  
22 districts that are having difficulty helping students meet the  
23 essential academic learning requirements;

24 (iii) A system to intervene in schools and school districts in  
25 which significant numbers of students persistently fail to learn the  
26 essential academic learning requirements; and

27 (iv) An awards program to provide incentives to school staff to  
28 help their students learn the essential academic learning requirements,  
29 with each school being assessed individually against its own baseline.  
30 Incentives shall be based on the rate of percentage change of students  
31 achieving the essential academic learning requirements. School staff  
32 shall determine how the awards will be spent.

33 It is the intent of the legislature to begin implementation of  
34 programs in this subsection (3)(i) on September 1, 2000;

35 (j) Report annually by December 1st to the legislature, the  
36 governor, the superintendent of public instruction, and the state board  
37 of education on the progress, findings, and recommendations of the  
38 commission; and

1 (k) Make recommendations to the legislature and take other actions  
2 necessary or desirable to help students meet the student learning  
3 goals.

4 (4) The commission shall coordinate its activities with the state  
5 board of education and the office of the superintendent of public  
6 instruction.

7 (5) The commission shall seek advice broadly from the public and  
8 all interested educational organizations in the conduct of its work,  
9 including holding periodic regional public hearings.

10 (6) The commission shall select an entity to provide staff support  
11 and the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
12 provide administrative oversight and be the fiscal agent for the  
13 commission. The commission may direct the office of the superintendent  
14 of public instruction to enter into subcontracts, within the  
15 commission's resources, with school districts, teachers, higher  
16 education faculty, state agencies, business organizations, and other  
17 individuals and organizations to assist the commission in its  
18 deliberations.

19 (7) Members of the commission shall be reimbursed for travel  
20 expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

21 (8) This section expires June 30, 1999.

22 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. (1) By December 15, 1996, the commission on  
23 student learning shall recommend to the appropriate committees of the  
24 legislature a revised timeline for the implementation of the middle and  
25 high school assessments for science, history, geography, civics,  
26 health, fitness, and the arts, and the elementary assessment for  
27 science.

28 (2) By December 15, 1996, the state board of education and the  
29 commission on student learning shall make initial recommendations to  
30 the appropriate committees of the legislature regarding the  
31 implementation timeline for the certificate of mastery, including  
32 whether it should be a graduation requirement. The board and  
33 commission shall consider other or additional methods in which the  
34 assessments could be used to raise the standards in schools and of  
35 students, and how these methods should be phased-in.

36 (3) This section shall expire December 31, 1996.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    1995 c 335 s 803 (uncodified) is repealed.

--- **END** ---