
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1378

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Radcliff, H. Sommers, D. Sommers, Carlson, Johnson, Sump, Costa, Mitchell, Poulsen, Linville, Dunshee, Cooke, Mason, Keiser, Wood, Kenney and Kessler)

Read first time 03/10/97.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing educational opportunities for
2 students; amending RCW 28A.205.020 and 28A.205.080; adding a new
3 section to chapter 28A.150 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 school districts
6 may seek to provide instructional programs to students who are
7 academically at risk, or who have been subject to disciplinary actions
8 due to behavioral problems. These students have very different
9 learning needs, and providing instruction to these students can be
10 difficult for school districts. The legislature intends to create
11 additional options for the education of children who are likely to be
12 suspended, expelled, or who are exhibiting poor academic performance or
13 behavioral problems.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.150
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) The board of directors of school districts may contract with
17 alternative educational service providers for eligible students.

1 Alternative educational service providers that the school district may
2 contract with include, but are not limited to:

3 (a) Other schools;

4 (b) Alternative education programs not operated by the school
5 district;

6 (c) Education centers;

7 (d) Skill centers;

8 (e) Dropout prevention programs; or

9 (f) Other public or private organizations, excluding sectarian or
10 religious organizations.

11 (2) Eligible students include students who are likely to be
12 expelled or who are enrolled in the school district but have been
13 suspended, are academically at risk, or who have been subject to
14 repeated disciplinary actions due to behavioral problems.

15 (3) If a school district board of directors chooses to initiate
16 specialized programs for students at risk of expulsion or who are
17 failing academically by contracting out with alternative educational
18 service providers identified in subsection (1) of this section, the
19 school district board of directors and the organization must specify
20 the specific learning standards that students are expected to achieve.
21 Placement of the student shall be jointly determined by the school
22 district, the student's parent or legal guardian, and the alternative
23 educational service provider.

24 (4) For the purpose of this section, the superintendent of public
25 instruction shall adopt rules to permit students to reenter at the
26 grade level appropriate to the student's ability. Students who are
27 sixteen years of age or older may take the GED test.

28 (5) The board of directors of school districts may require that
29 students who would otherwise be suspended or expelled attend schools or
30 programs listed in subsection (1) of this section as a condition of
31 continued enrollment in the school district.

32 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.205.020 and 1993 c 211 s 2 are each amended to
33 read as follows:

34 Only eligible common school dropouts shall be enrolled in a
35 certified education center for reimbursement by the superintendent of
36 public instruction as provided in RCW 28A.205.040. ~~((No))~~ A person
37 ~~((shall be considered))~~ is not an eligible common school dropout
38 ~~((who))~~ if: (1) The person has completed high school, (2) ~~((who))~~ the

1 person has not reached his or her (~~(thirteenth)~~) twelfth birthday or
2 has passed his or her twentieth birthday, (~~(or)~~) (3) the person shows
3 proficiency beyond the high school level in a test approved by the
4 superintendent of public instruction to be given as part of the initial
5 diagnostic procedure, or (4) (~~(until)~~) less than one month has passed
6 after (~~(he or she)~~) the person has dropped out of any common school and
7 the education center has not received written verification from a
8 school official of the common school last attended in this state that
9 (~~(such)~~) the person is no longer in attendance at (~~(such)~~) the
10 school(~~(, unless such center has been requested to admit such person by~~
11 ~~written communication of)~~). A person is an eligible common school
12 dropout even if one month has not passed since the person dropped out
13 if the board of directors or its designee, of that common school, (~~(or~~
14 ~~unless such)~~) requests the center to admit the person because the
15 person has dropped out or because the person is unable to attend a
16 particular common school because of disciplinary reasons, including
17 suspension and/or expulsion (~~(therefrom)~~). The fact that any person
18 may be subject to RCW 28A.225.010 through 28A.225.150, 28A.200.010, and
19 28A.200.020 shall not affect his or her qualifications as an eligible
20 common school dropout under this chapter.

21 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.205.080 and 1993 c 211 s 7 are each amended to
22 read as follows:

23 The legislature recognizes that education centers provide a
24 necessary and effective service for students who have dropped out of
25 common school programs. Education centers have demonstrated success in
26 preparing such youth for productive roles in society and are an
27 integral part of the state's program to address the needs of students
28 who have dropped out of school. The superintendent of public
29 instruction shall distribute funds, consistent with legislative
30 appropriations, allocated specifically for education centers in accord
31 with chapter 28A.205 RCW. The legislature encourages school districts
32 to explore cooperation with education centers pursuant to section 2 of
33 this act.

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