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HOUSE BILL 2035

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Smith and Bush

Read first time 02/18/97. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to changing the names of the commission on student  
2 learning and the essential academic learning requirements; amending RCW  
3 28A.630.883; reenacting and amending RCW 28A.630.885; repealing 1995 c  
4 335 s 803 (uncodified); and providing an expiration date.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.630.883 and 1993 c 336 s 201 are each amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in  
9 this section apply throughout RCW 28A.630.885 and 28A.300.130.

10 (1) "Commission" means the commission on ~~((student learning))~~  
11 academic achievement created in RCW 28A.630.885.

12 (2) "Student learning goals" ~~((mean[s]))~~ means the goals  
13 established in RCW 28A.150.210.

14 (3) "~~((Essential))~~ Academic ~~((learning requirements))~~ achievement  
15 standards" means more specific academic and technical skills and  
16 knowledge, based on the student learning goals, as determined under RCW  
17 28A.630.885(3)(a). ~~((Essential))~~ Academic ~~((learning requirements))~~  
18 achievement standards shall not limit the instructional strategies used

1 by schools or school districts or require the use of specific  
2 curriculum.

3 (4) "Performance standards" or "standards" means the criteria used  
4 to determine if a student has successfully learned the specific  
5 knowledge or skill being assessed as determined under RCW  
6 28A.630.885(3)(b). The standards should be set at internationally  
7 competitive levels.

8 (5) "Assessment system" or "student assessment system" means a  
9 series of assessments used to determine if students have successfully  
10 learned the ~~((essential))~~ academic ~~((learning—requirements))~~  
11 achievement standards. The assessment system shall be developed under  
12 RCW 28A.630.885(3)(b).

13 (6) "Performance-based education system" means an education system  
14 in which a significantly greater emphasis is placed on how well  
15 students are learning, and significantly less emphasis is placed on  
16 state-level laws and rules that dictate how instruction is to be  
17 provided. The performance-based education system does not require that  
18 schools use an outcome-based instructional model. Decisions regarding  
19 how instruction is provided are to be made, to the greatest extent  
20 possible, by schools and school districts, not by the state.

21 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.630.885 and 1995 c 335 s 505 and 1995 c 209 s 1  
22 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

23 (1) The Washington commission on ~~((student—learning))~~ academic  
24 achievement is hereby established. The primary purposes of the  
25 commission are to identify the knowledge and skills all public school  
26 students need to know and be able to do based on the student learning  
27 goals in RCW 28A.150.210, to develop student assessment and school  
28 accountability systems, to review current school district data  
29 reporting requirements and make recommendations on what data is  
30 necessary for the purposes of accountability and meeting state  
31 information needs, and to take other steps necessary to develop a  
32 performance-based education system. The commission shall include three  
33 members of the state board of education, three members appointed by the  
34 governor before July 1, 1992, and five members appointed no later than  
35 June 1, 1993, by the governor elected in the November 1992 election.  
36 The governor shall appoint a chair from the commission members, and  
37 fill any vacancies in gubernatorial appointments that may occur. The  
38 state board of education shall fill any vacancies of state board of

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

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

17 (3) The commission, with the assistance of the advisory committees,  
18 shall:

19 (a) Develop ~~((essential))~~ academic ~~((learning requirements))~~  
20 achievement standards based on the student learning goals in RCW  
21 28A.150.210. ~~((Essential))~~ Academic ~~((learning requirements))~~  
22 achievement standards shall be developed, to the extent possible, for  
23 each of the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210. Goals one and  
24 two shall be considered primary. ~~((Essential))~~ Academic ~~((learning~~  
25 ~~requirements))~~ achievement standards for RCW 28A.150.210(1), goal one,  
26 and the mathematics component of RCW 28A.150.210(2), goal two, shall be  
27 completed no later than March 1, 1995. ~~((Essential))~~ Academic  
28 ~~((learning requirements))~~ achievement standards that incorporate the  
29 remainder of RCW 28A.150.210 (2), (3), and (4), goals two, three, and  
30 four, shall be completed no later than March 1, 1996. To the maximum  
31 extent possible, the commission shall integrate goal four and the  
32 knowledge and skill areas in the other goals in the development of the  
33 ~~((essential))~~ academic ~~((learning requirements))~~ achievement standards;

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

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

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

12 (iii) Assessments measuring the (~~essential~~) academic (~~learning~~  
13 ~~requirements~~) achievement standards developed for RCW 28A.150.210(1),  
14 goal one, and the mathematics component of RCW 28A.150.210(2), goal  
15 two, shall be initially implemented by the state board of education and  
16 superintendent of public instruction no later than the 1996-97 school  
17 year, unless the legislature takes action to delay or prevent  
18 implementation of the assessment system and (~~essential~~) academic  
19 (~~learning requirements~~) achievement standards. Assessments measuring  
20 the (~~essential~~) academic (~~learning requirements~~) achievement  
21 standards developed for RCW 28A.150.210 (2), (3), and (4), goals two,  
22 three, and four, shall be initially implemented by the state board of  
23 education and superintendent of public instruction no later than the  
24 1998-99 school year, unless the legislature takes action to delay or  
25 prevent implementation of the assessment system and (~~essential~~)  
26 academic (~~learning requirements~~) achievement standards. To the  
27 maximum extent possible, the commission shall integrate knowledge and  
28 skill areas in development of the assessments.

29 (iv) Before the 2000-2001 school year, participation by school  
30 districts in the assessment system shall be optional. School districts  
31 that desire to participate before the 2000-2001 school year shall  
32 notify the superintendent of public instruction in a manner determined  
33 by the superintendent. Beginning in the 2000-2001 school year, all  
34 school districts shall be required to participate in the assessment  
35 system.

36 (v) The state board of education and superintendent of public  
37 instruction may modify the (~~essential~~) academic (~~learning~~  
38 ~~requirements~~) achievement standards and academic assessment system, as  
39 needed, in subsequent school years.

1 (vi) The commission shall develop assessments that are directly  
2 related to the ~~((essential))~~ academic ~~((learning requirements))~~  
3 achievement standards, and are not biased toward persons with different  
4 learning styles, racial or ethnic backgrounds, or on the basis of  
5 gender;

6 (c) After a determination is made by the state board of education  
7 that the high school assessment system has been implemented and that it  
8 is sufficiently reliable and valid, successful completion of the high  
9 school assessment shall lead to a certificate of mastery. The  
10 certificate of mastery shall be obtained by most students at about the  
11 age of sixteen, and is evidence that the student has successfully  
12 mastered the ~~((essential))~~ academic ~~((learning requirements))~~  
13 achievement standards during his or her educational career. The  
14 certificate of mastery shall be required for graduation but shall not  
15 be the only requirement for graduation. The commission shall make  
16 recommendations to the state board of education regarding the  
17 relationship between the certificate of mastery and high school  
18 graduation requirements. Upon achieving the certificate of mastery,  
19 schools shall provide students with the opportunity to continue to  
20 pursue career and educational objectives through educational pathways  
21 that emphasize integration of academic and vocational education.  
22 Educational pathways may include, but are not limited to, programs such  
23 as work-based learning, school-to-work transition, tech prep,  
24 vocational-technical education, running start, and preparation for  
25 technical college, community college, or university education;

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

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

32 (f) Develop recommendations on the time, support, and resources,  
33 including technical assistance, needed by schools and school districts  
34 to help students achieve the ~~((essential))~~ academic ~~((learning  
35 requirements))~~ achievement standards. These recommendations shall  
36 include an estimate for the legislature, superintendent of public  
37 instruction, and governor on the expected cost of implementing the  
38 academic assessment system;

1 (g) Develop recommendations for consideration by the higher  
2 education coordinating board for adopting college and university  
3 entrance requirements for public school students that are consistent  
4 with the (~~essential~~) academic (~~learning requirements~~) achievement  
5 standards and the certificate of mastery;

6 (h) Review current school district data reporting requirements for  
7 the purposes of accountability and meeting state information needs.  
8 The commission (~~on student learning~~) shall report recommendations to  
9 the joint select committee on education restructuring by September 15,  
10 1996, on:

11 (i) What data is necessary to compare how school districts are  
12 performing before the (~~essential~~) academic (~~learning requirements~~)  
13 achievement standards and the assessment system are implemented with  
14 how school districts are performing after the (~~essential~~) academic  
15 (~~learning requirements~~) achievement standards and the assessment  
16 system are implemented; and

17 (ii) What data is necessary pertaining to school district reports  
18 under the accountability systems developed by the commission (~~on~~  
19 ~~student learning~~) under this section;

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

22 (i) A state-wide accountability system to monitor and evaluate  
23 accurately and fairly the level of learning occurring in individual  
24 schools and school districts. The accountability system shall be  
25 designed to recognize the characteristics of the student population of  
26 schools and school districts such as gender, race, ethnicity,  
27 socioeconomic status, and other factors. The system shall include  
28 school-site, school district, and state-level accountability reports;

29 (ii) A school assistance program to help schools and school  
30 districts that are having difficulty helping students meet the  
31 (~~essential~~) academic (~~learning requirements~~) achievement standards;

32 (iii) A system to intervene in schools and school districts in  
33 which significant numbers of students persistently fail to learn the  
34 (~~essential~~) academic (~~learning requirements~~) achievement standards;  
35 and

36 (iv) An awards program to provide incentives to school staff to  
37 help their students learn the (~~essential~~) academic (~~learning~~  
38 ~~requirements~~) achievement standards, with each school being assessed  
39 individually against its own baseline. Incentives shall be based on

1 the rate of percentage change of students achieving the (~~essential~~)  
2 academic (~~learning requirements~~) achievement standards. School staff  
3 shall determine how the awards will be spent.

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

6 (j) Report annually by December 1st to the legislature, the  
7 governor, the superintendent of public instruction, and the state board  
8 of education on the progress, findings, and recommendations of the  
9 commission; and

10 (k) Make recommendations to the legislature and take other actions  
11 necessary or desirable to help students meet the student learning  
12 goals.

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

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

19 (6) The commission shall select an entity to provide staff support  
20 and the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
21 provide administrative oversight and be the fiscal agent for the  
22 commission. The commission may direct the office of the superintendent  
23 of public instruction to enter into subcontracts, within the  
24 commission's resources, with school districts, teachers, higher  
25 education faculty, state agencies, business organizations, and other  
26 individuals and organizations to assist the commission in its  
27 deliberations.

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

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

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

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