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HOUSE BILL 2111

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State of Washington                      55th Legislature                      1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Quall, Talcott, Wolfe, Blalock and Costa

Read first time 02/20/97. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to teacher preparation; creating new sections; and  
2 declaring an emergency.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that some certificated  
5 and classified instructional staff may not have the necessary knowledge  
6 and skills to provide an appropriate education for both special  
7 education and regular education students under the federal requirement  
8 of least-restrictive environment. Teachers may need additional  
9 preservice instruction in creating and adjusting curriculum, or they  
10 may need training or internships with special education professionals  
11 in designing strategies to include special education students in the  
12 regular classroom. Classified staff may need additional training when  
13 assigned to assist a special education student who is included in  
14 regular classroom instruction. The legislature intends to direct a  
15 study to assess the adequacy of teacher preparation programs and other  
16 training programs in addressing special education and regular education  
17 needs in a least-restrictive environment.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    (1) The joint legislative audit and review  
2 committee, in conjunction with the office of the superintendent of  
3 public instruction, shall conduct a study of teacher preparation  
4 programs and classified staff training programs relating to special  
5 education needs.

6        (2) The joint legislative audit and review committee is directed  
7 to:

8        (a) Survey in-state and out-of-state institutions of postsecondary  
9 education regarding programs, curriculum, and courses to prepare  
10 teachers to instruct special education students in the least-  
11 restrictive environment;

12        (b) Survey the range of practices in school districts, educational  
13 service districts, and other educational programs around the state to  
14 instruct children with special education needs in a least-restrictive  
15 environment; and

16        (c) Examine, to the extent it is possible, the adequacy of teacher  
17 preparation programs and classified staff training programs in  
18 providing the necessary knowledge and skills to deliver appropriate  
19 instruction and services to special education students and regular  
20 education students from kindergarten through twelfth grade in a least-  
21 restrictive environment.

22        (3) As part of the study effort, the office of the superintendent  
23 of public instruction shall survey the attitudes of parents, educators,  
24 and administrators regarding the reported quality, effectiveness, and  
25 efficiency of special education instruction and services. The results  
26 of the survey shall be integrated into a report prepared by the joint  
27 legislative audit and review committee.

28        (4) In conducting the study described in this section, the joint  
29 legislative audit and review committee may convene a technical advisory  
30 committee composed of legislators and representatives from higher  
31 education, K-12 education, and teacher, advocate, and parent  
32 organizations. Members of the technical advisory committee shall be  
33 reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and  
34 43.03.060.

35        (5) The joint legislative audit and review committee shall provide  
36 an interim project briefing to the appropriate legislative committees  
37 by December 31, 1997. The joint legislative audit and review committee  
38 shall report its findings and recommendations to the appropriate  
39 legislative committees by September 25, 1998.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    This act is necessary for the immediate  
2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
3 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
4 immediately.

5        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    If specific funding for the purposes of this  
6 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by  
7 June 30, 1997, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and  
8 void.

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