
SENATE BILL 5498

State of Washington 55th Legislature 1997 Regular Session

By Senators Hochstatter, McAuliffe, Oke and Kohl

Read first time 01/29/97. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to teacher assessment for certification; adding a
2 new section to chapter 28A.410 RCW; creating a new section; and
3 repealing RCW 28A.410.020.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds and declares:

6 (1) Washington has a strong and continually improving system of
7 teacher preparation and certification.

8 (2) Incorporating teacher assessment for certification into the
9 system cannot guarantee good teaching performance, but can contribute
10 to public confidence.

11 (3) Teacher assessment for certification can guard against
12 admission to the teaching profession of persons who have not
13 demonstrated that they are competent in the basic skills of reading,
14 writing, communications, and math; knowledgeable about the skills
15 required to teach; and knowledgeable in the subjects they will be
16 assigned to teach.

17 (4) Teacher assessment for certification should be implemented as
18 a complementary element to the existing system of teacher preparation
19 and certification.

1 (5) Incorporating teacher assessment for certification should be
2 done in a manner that is aligned with the direction of the improvement
3 of student achievement act of 1993, chapter 336, Laws of 1993.

4 (6) Teacher assessment for certification should add value to the
5 candidate's professional growth journey.

6 (7) Teacher assessment for certification will contribute to
7 maintaining an already high quality system of teacher preparation and
8 certification in Washington.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.410
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 (1) The state board of education shall provide for the
12 implementation of one or more means of assessing the knowledge or
13 abilities, or both, of all applicants for teaching certificates
14 required by the state board under this chapter.

15 (2) On or before September 1, 2000, the state board at a minimum
16 shall assess:

17 (a) An applicant's knowledge in the subjects of reading, writing,
18 communications, and mathematics as determined by the state board; and

19 (b) An applicant's teaching abilities or knowledge of teaching, or
20 both, as determined by the state board.

21 (3) In addition to the assessments under subsection (2) of this
22 section, the state board of education also shall provide for the
23 implementation of one or more means of assessing an applicant's
24 knowledge in the subjects for which the applicant has received, or
25 applied for, an endorsement. This assessment shall be offered as soon
26 as reasonably possible.

27 (4) The state board of education may provide for the implementation
28 of one or more means of assessing an applicant's knowledge in such
29 other matters as may be required in the discretion of the state board.

30 (5) On each of the assessments under subsections (2) and (3) of
31 this section, an applicant shall achieve a minimum assessment score, or
32 minimum assessment scores, established by the state board as a
33 condition to being issued a teaching certificate and subject
34 endorsements to the certificate.

35 (6) The state board of education and superintendent of public
36 instruction, as determined by the state board, may contract with one or
37 more third parties for:

1 (a) The development, purchase, administration, scoring, and
2 reporting of scores of the assessments established by the state board
3 under this section;

4 (b) Related clerical and administrative activities; or

5 (c) Any combination of the purposes in this subsection.

6 (7) Applicants for teaching certificates shall pay fees established
7 by the state board of education for initial assessments, reassessments,
8 scoring of assessments, reporting of assessment scores, and clerical
9 and administrative activities related thereto. Such fees shall be
10 reasonably related to the direct and indirect costs of the state board
11 and superintendent of public instruction in implementing this section,
12 including contractual costs.

13 (8) Fee revenues received by the state board and superintendent of
14 public instruction under this section shall be deposited in the teacher
15 assessment account hereby created in the custody of the state
16 treasurer. Moneys deposited in the account shall be expended
17 exclusively for the direct and indirect costs of implementing this
18 section. The account is subject to the allotment procedures under
19 chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for disbursement.

20 (9) The superintendent of public instruction is responsible for
21 supervision and providing support services to administer this section.

22 (10) In developing and implementing the assessments required under
23 this section, the state board shall ensure, at a minimum, that
24 teachers, administrators, and higher education representatives are
25 involved.

26 (11) The state board shall adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW that
27 the board determines are reasonably necessary for the effective and
28 efficient implementation of this section.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.410.020 and 1996 c 309 s 1, 1991 c
30 116 s 20, 1988 c 251 s 4, & 1987 c 525 s 202 are each repealed.

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