

HOUSE BILL ANALYSIS

HB 1714

Title: An act relating to teacher assessment for certification.

Brief Description: Incorporating teacher assessment into the certification system.

Sponsors: Representatives Quall, Talcott, Schindler, Keiser, Rockefeller, Regala, Ruderman, D. Schmidt, Stensen, Kenney, Lantz, Lovick, Wensman, Dickerson, Santos and McIntire; by request of Board of Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction and Governor Locke.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Meeting Date: February 17, 1999.

Bill Analysis Prepared by: Suzi Morrissey (786-7111).

Background:

Summary of Bill: Beginning August 1, 2001, new teachers entering Washington's public and approved private schools will be required to pass one or more assessments before they will receive state certification. The SBE will determine minimum passing scores on all assessments. The SBE will develop and implement the assessments in collaboration with the SPI, and in consultation with teachers, administrators, and representatives of colleges and universities. The SBE will also adopt rules implementing their assessment authority. The rules may permit exceptions to the assessment requirements, on a case-by-case basis. Beginning in December, 2001, the SBE will prepare an annual report on the number and percentage of prospective teachers who pass the assessments.

Basic Skills Assessment

By September 1, 2000, the SBE will select an assessment that evaluates a person's knowledge in reading, writing, mathematics, and communications. Beginning August 1, 2001, passing the test will be required of two types of prospective teachers. Out-of-state teachers applying for certification must pass the basic skills assessment before they may teach in Washington. In addition, most students applying for admission to teacher preparation programs must pass the assessment before they can be admitted to the program. Teacher preparation programs may admit, on occasion, students who have not passed the assessment. However, these students must pass the basic skills assessment before they will receive initial (residency) teaching certificates.

Knowledge of Teaching (Pedagogy) Assessment

By September 1, 2001, the SBE will make available one or more methods to assess a prospective teacher's knowledge of teaching skills and theory. The assessment will include issues such as classroom management, discipline, organization and delivery of lessons, assessment strategies, and communication with parents. Beginning May 1, 2002, candidates for residency teaching certificates must pass the assessment before they can teach in Washington.

Subject Matter Assessment

By September 1, 2001, the SBE will make available one or more methods to assess a prospective teacher's subject matter knowledge. Beginning May 1, 2002, before they may teach in Washington, candidates for residency teaching certificates must pass the assessments in any subjects in which they have received an endorsement. (An endorsement is required in subject matter that a person plans to teach.)

Development of the Assessments

The SBE and OSPI may contract with organizations for the development, purchase, administration, and scoring of the assessments. The SBE will establish, and prospective teachers will pay fees for the assessments, unless costs associated with the assessments are funded through a state appropriation. Any fees will be deposited in the teacher assessment account in the state treasury.

Current Law Repealed

The existing requirement is repealed that students demonstrate competency in basic skills before admittance to a teacher preparation programs.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 10, 1999.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.