

Education Committee

HB 2108

Brief Description: *Providing school districts the opportunity to waive fees for traffic safety education.*

Sponsors: *Representatives Talcott, Haigh, Kenney, Santos and Schual-Berke.*

Hearing Date: *2/22/01*

Staff: *Sydney Forrester (786-7120).*

Background:

School districts are not required to offer traffic safety education but most districts do so. Currently 244 districts offer traffic safety education, which necessarily includes a driver training component. A few districts also coordinate efforts and provide a single program to students from one or more districts.

The average cost per pupil is \$434. The average individual student fee is \$148. The state contributes \$137, and makes an additional \$67 available to low income students on the same eligibility criteria as is used for free and reduced meals. The district pays an average \$149, less any off-set for low-income students.

In the 1999-2000 school year approximately 67,000 students took the tenth-grade Washington assessment of student learning for reading. Of these, approximately 40,000 met or exceeded the standard. During the same period, approximately 64,300 students took the tenth-grade WASL for writing; approximately 20,400 met or exceeded the standard.

Summary of Bill:

A school district may waive the fee for its traffic safety and driver training program for students who have demonstrated an ability to write with skill and read with comprehension. A student may demonstrate these abilities by meeting or exceeding the state's reading and writing standards as defined by the academic achievement commission.

The academic achievement commission shall determine the level of achievement required on the tenth-grade WASL, a norm-referenced test, or an alternative assessment.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested February 21, 2001.

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