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SENATE BILL 5940

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Regala, McAuliffe, Carlson, Kohl-Welles, Eide, Kastama, Rasmussen and Finkbeiner; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Read first time 02/08/2001. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to career and technical education; adding a new  
2 section to chapter 28C.04 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that Washington  
5 requires strong career and technical education programs to meet the  
6 academic and career preparation needs of secondary students. The  
7 legislature further finds that career and technical education programs,  
8 including the vocational skills centers, provide:

9 (a) Support for achievement of the certificate of mastery,  
10 particularly by students requiring applied learning opportunities for  
11 academic success;

12 (b) Opportunities for secondary students to certify competency in  
13 the entry-level skills of current occupations;

14 (c) Support for special needs students to fulfill the occupational  
15 preparation required for self-sufficiency in adult life;

16 (d) Increases in the number of students who complete high school;  
17 and

18 (e) Assistance with students' transitions from secondary schools to  
19 postsecondary education, training, and employment.

1 (2) In order to provide students with a variety of learning  
2 experiences that will assist them in achieving the higher standards of  
3 education reform, school districts currently offering career and  
4 technical education programs shall continue to provide career and  
5 technical education programs and school districts not offering career  
6 and technical education programs are encouraged to begin providing such  
7 programs.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.04 RCW  
9 to read as follows:

10 (1) To ensure high quality career and technical programs, the  
11 office of the superintendent of public instruction shall review and  
12 approve the plans of local districts for the delivery of career and  
13 technical education. Standards for career and technical programs shall  
14 be established by the office of the superintendent of public  
15 instruction. These standards should:

16 (a) Demonstrate how career and technical education programs will  
17 ensure academic rigor; align with the state's education reform  
18 requirements; ensure preparation for industry-defined skill standards  
19 or certifications, or both; help address the skills gap of Washington's  
20 economy; and maintain strong industry connections for the design and  
21 delivery of career and technical education;

22 (b) Demonstrate how secondary career and technical education  
23 programs will align with the work force development councils of  
24 Washington state, particularly regarding (i) the provision of services  
25 out-of-school; (ii) the retention of at-risk youth; and (iii)  
26 connection to and use of the labor market information system of the  
27 work source system; and

28 (c) Demonstrate a strategy to align the five-year planning  
29 requirement under the federal Carl Perkins act with the state and  
30 district vocational program planning requirements that include:

31 (i) An assessment of equipment and technology needs to support the  
32 skills training of technical students;

33 (ii) An assessment of industry internships required for teachers to  
34 ensure the ability to prepare students for industry-defined standards  
35 or certifications, or both;

36 (iii) An assessment of the costs of supporting job shadows,  
37 mentors, community service and industry internships, and other  
38 activities for student learning in the community. A formula for the

1 calculation of the full-time equivalent value of these activities shall  
2 be included in the new program standards; and

3 (iv) A description of the leadership activities to be provided for  
4 technical education students.

5 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
6 recommend a system of funding the implementation of the standards in  
7 this section, including regular equipment and technology investments.

8 (3) To the extent funds are appropriated or available, the office  
9 of the superintendent of public instruction shall select up to twelve  
10 school districts to serve as pilot sites for implementation of the  
11 standards in this section.

12 (4) To ensure high quality career education programs and services  
13 in secondary schools, to the extent funds are appropriated, the office  
14 of the superintendent of public instruction shall provide one full-time  
15 equivalent staff person to support the development and delivery of  
16 career guidance activities statewide. This shall include technical  
17 assistance to local districts and the development of state guidelines  
18 for the delivery of career guidance in secondary schools.

19 (5) To ensure leadership skills development, the office of the  
20 superintendent of public instruction shall assign staff to support  
21 Washington state FFA, Washington future business leaders of America,  
22 Washington DECA, Washington SkillsUSA-VICA, Washington family, career  
23 and community leaders, and Washington technology students association,  
24 and any additional career or technical student organizations that are  
25 formed. Working with the staff and members of these organizations, the  
26 office of the superintendent of public instruction shall develop tools  
27 for the coordination of leadership activities with the curriculum of  
28 technical education programs and shall provide state and federal  
29 funding, as available, for these activities.

30 (6) As used in this section, "career and technical education" means  
31 planned programs of courses and learning experiences that begin with  
32 exploration of career options, support the achievement of the state's  
33 academic standards, promote leadership development, and offer specific  
34 preparation in industry-defined skills and for advanced and continuing  
35 education.

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