

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2579

Chapter 113, Laws of 2006

59th Legislature
2006 Regular Session

EDUCATION--CIVICS ASSESSMENTS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/7/06

Passed by the House March 4, 2006
Yeas 76 Nays 19

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate March 2, 2006
Yeas 44 Nays 1

BRAD OWEN

President of the Senate

Approved March 20, 2006.

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Richard Nafziger, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2579** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

RICHARD NAFZIGER

Chief Clerk

FILED

March 20, 2006 - 10:23 a.m.

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2579

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2006 Regular Session

State of Washington **59th Legislature** **2006 Regular Session**

By Representatives Upthegrove, Lantz, Dickerson, Appleton, Morrell, Hasegawa, Quall, Hunter, Haler, O'Brien, Murray, Hunt, Schual-Berke, Ormsby, Springer and Moeller

Read first time 01/10/2006. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to educational assessments; amending RCW
2 28A.230.095; creating new sections; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that instruction in
5 social studies, arts, health, and fitness is important to ensure a
6 well-rounded and complete education. In particular, the civic mission
7 of schools is strengthened and enhanced by comprehensive civics
8 education and assessments. The legislature finds that effective and
9 accountable democratic government depends upon an informed and engaged
10 citizenry, and therefore, students should learn their rights and
11 responsibilities as citizens, where those rights and responsibilities
12 come from, and how to exercise them.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.095 and 2004 c 19 s 203 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (1) By the end of the 2008-09 school year, school districts shall
16 have in place in elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools
17 assessments or other strategies to assure that students have an
18 opportunity to learn the essential academic learning requirements in

1 social studies, the arts, and health and fitness. Social studies
2 includes history, geography, civics, economics, and social studies
3 skills. Beginning with the 2008-09 school year, school districts shall
4 annually submit an implementation verification report to the office of
5 the superintendent of public instruction.

6 (2) Beginning with the 2008-09 school year, school districts shall
7 require students in the fourth or fifth grades, the seventh or eighth
8 grades, and the eleventh or twelfth grades to each complete at least
9 one classroom-based assessment in civics. The civics assessment may be
10 selected from a list of classroom-based assessments approved by the
11 office of the superintendent of public instruction. Beginning with the
12 2008-09 school year, school districts shall annually submit
13 implementation verification reports to the office of the superintendent
14 of public instruction documenting the use of the classroom-based
15 assessments in civics.

16 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. (1) The legislature finds that the
17 complexity of modern political life has created a demand for informed
18 citizens who are willing not only to vote, but also to participate in
19 the elections process.

20 (2) The purpose of this section is to create a pilot project to
21 help graduate students who are better voters, better citizens, and who
22 are ready to take an informed and responsible place in society.

23 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
24 work with selected county auditors' offices to develop an interactive
25 high school civics curriculum to help students learn how to become
26 informed citizens. The curriculum shall meet the requirements for the
27 office of the superintendent of public instruction's classroom-based
28 assessments. Staff from the office of the superintendent of public
29 instruction shall work directly in the curriculum development.

30 (4) Counties shall apply to, and be selected by, the office of the
31 superintendent of public instruction to participate in the pilot
32 project under this section. A maximum of fifteen counties may
33 participate.

34 (5) The curriculum shall include, but not be limited to:

35 (a) Local government organization;

36 (b) A discussion of ballot measures, initiatives, and referenda;

1 (c) The role of the precinct in defining ballots, candidates, and
2 political activities;

3 (d) The roles and responsibilities of taxing jurisdictions in
4 establishing ballot measures; and

5 (e) The work of conducting elections.

6 (6) The study may include in the curriculum civics essential
7 academic learning requirements relating to examining representative
8 government and citizen participation and analyzing the purposes and
9 organization of government and laws.

10 (7) A curriculum guide shall be developed that will help teachers
11 and students maximize the learning of key issues in civics, and shall
12 include strategies for helping students develop voters' guide
13 information for ballot issues and candidates who appear on the ballot.
14 This guide should incorporate ideas from other Washington state civics
15 education programs, such as "We the People" and "Project Citizen." The
16 guide should also present ideas for sharing the results of an election
17 with the larger community and with local government officials in
18 productive, meaningful ways.

19 (8) In addition to the required components of the pilot project
20 under this section, other activities may be included in the project,
21 such as:

22 (a) Conducting mock county elections at schools; and

23 (b) Preparing an advisory issue on which the school would vote,
24 including issue preparation, conducting the election, and preparing a
25 presentation to a local government official on the results of the
26 advisory issue.

27 (9) The pilot project shall operate for the 2006-07 and 2007-08
28 school years.

29 (10) Funds for the pilot project shall be made available to the
30 office of the superintendent of public instruction for a contract
31 position in civics curriculum and for support costs for soliciting and
32 implementing volunteer participation.

33 (11) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
34 adopt rules to implement this section, including rules specifying
35 selection criteria for counties that wish to participate.

36 (12) The superintendent of public instruction shall provide an
37 interim report to appropriate committees of the legislature by December

1 1, 2008, and a final report by December 1, 2009, detailing the results
2 of the project and budget recommendations for expansion, if
3 appropriate.

4 (13) This section expires January 31, 2010.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, or
6 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal
7 year ending June 30, 2007, from the general fund to the superintendent
8 of public instruction. The superintendent shall use the funds to
9 provide competitive grants to school districts for curriculum
10 alignment, development of innovative civics projects, and other
11 activities that support the civics assessment under this act. As a
12 condition of grant receipt, districts shall make the products developed
13 under the grant widely available as examples of best practices.

Passed by the House March 4, 2006.

Passed by the Senate March 2, 2006.

Approved by the Governor March 20, 2006.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 20, 2006.