
HOUSE BILL 2899

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Darneille, Santos, Roberts, Williams, Green, Kagi, Simpson, and Kenney

Read first time 01/17/08. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to adult literacy education; adding new sections to
2 chapter 28B.50 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that it is in the
5 state's best interest to promote and provide adult literacy education.
6 In order to reach all of those in need of literacy instruction, the
7 legislature finds that it is necessary to better understand adult
8 literacy needs and available resources, and to more effectively
9 advertise and promote adult literacy-related services.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Washington state institute for
11 public policy shall study and, no later than December 1, 2008, report
12 on the status of adult literacy education to the governor, the
13 appropriate policy committees of the legislature, and the state board
14 for community and technical colleges.

15 (2) The study shall include:

16 (a) A review of literacy rates nationally, in Washington, and in
17 Washington counties;

1 (b) A review of research literature on adult literacy, including
2 literature focused on adult basic education, English language learners,
3 and individuals with diagnosed and undiagnosed learning disabilities;

4 (c) A description of literacy-related services provided by
5 Washington state agencies and community-based organizations in the
6 state; and

7 (d) Analysis of data from Washington state agencies and community-
8 based organizations in the state regarding literacy levels and other
9 client and student characteristics.

10 (3) Data and populations to be studied include:

11 (a) Clients served by the department of social and health services;

12 (b) Students enrolled in the state's common schools;

13 (c) Students at the state's community and technical colleges;

14 (d) Incarcerated individuals and others under the supervision of
15 the department of corrections; and

16 (e) Others as identified through the research process.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The state board for community and technical
18 colleges shall conduct a media campaign to increase public awareness
19 about the availability of adult, family, and workforce literacy
20 services and resources, as well as the benefits from literacy which
21 result, to the individual, the family, the community, and the workforce
22 in the state. This campaign may include, but is not limited to, media
23 such as the internet, television, radio, newspapers, books, and
24 magazines. The state board for community and technical colleges may
25 subcontract all or part of the activities associated with the media
26 campaign to qualified private nonprofit organizations.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Following receipt of the report prepared by
28 the Washington state institute for public policy in accordance with
29 section 2 of this act, the state board for community and technical
30 colleges shall coordinate and convene a one-day summit with the
31 principal goal of informing the public, adult literacy instructional
32 personnel, and local, state, and community leaders about the status of
33 adult literacy and adult literacy education as reported by the
34 institute. The state board for community and technical colleges may
35 subcontract all or part of the activities associated with the summit to
36 qualified private nonprofit organizations.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Beginning December 1, 2010, and every two
2 years thereafter, the state board for community and technical colleges
3 shall prepare and submit a status report to the governor and the
4 appropriate legislative policy committees regarding state and national
5 progress in increasing adult, family, and workforce literacy. The
6 status report shall include:

7 (1) A summary of state and local, as well as national, initiatives
8 related to adult, family, and workforce literacy, including related
9 funding mechanisms;

10 (2) A description of the adult, family, and workforce literacy
11 programs and services offered at the state's community and technical
12 colleges and through community-based organizations in the state,
13 including the numbers served by each;

14 (3) A description of partnerships and planning efforts with local
15 businesses, workforce investment boards, and nonprofit and community
16 organizations directed at advertising and expanding access to adult,
17 family, and workforce literacy programs and services, as well as making
18 such services more available and affordable;

19 (4) Performance measures and targets and whether and how these were
20 met and will be met in the future;

21 (5) Current information regarding proven and effective
22 instructional techniques and technology for improving literacy
23 outcomes; and

24 (6) Strategies and recommendations to provide adult literacy
25 instructional personnel with professional development opportunities and
26 access to proven and effective instructional techniques.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 2 through 5 of this act are each
28 added to chapter 28B.50 RCW.

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