
HOUSE BILL 1539

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives McCabe, Orwall, Griffey, Caldier, Senn, Dent, Gregerson, Smith, Kraft, Doglio, and Kagi

Read first time 01/23/17. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to a curriculum for the prevention of sexual
2 abuse of students; adding a new section to chapter 28A.230 RCW;
3 creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that every
6 child should experience emotional and physical development that is
7 free from abuse and neglect. In 2015, Washington child protective
8 services received reports screened in for investigation that alleged
9 the sexual abuse or sexual exploitation, or both, of two thousand six
10 hundred three children. Further, the legislature finds that most
11 sexual assaults are unreported. The legislature also finds that a
12 clear relationship exists between youth victimization and mental
13 health problems and delinquent behavior.

14 (2) The legislature finds that twenty-six states have enacted
15 Erin's laws. Erin's laws, named in honor of a childhood sexual
16 assault survivor, are intended to help children, teachers, and
17 parents identify sexual abuse, and to provide assistance, referral,
18 or resource information for children and families who are victims of
19 child sexual abuse. The legislation adopted in these states requires
20 the study or development of age-appropriate child sexual abuse
21 identification and prevention.

1 (3) The legislature finds that the federal every student succeeds
2 act, P.L. 114-95, as signed into law by President Barack Obama on
3 December 10, 2015, provides federal funding that can be used for the
4 implementation of programs established in accordance with Erin's
5 laws.

6 (4) The legislature, therefore, intends to adopt an Erin's law in
7 order to protect the children of Washington, one of the state's most
8 vulnerable populations.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1)(a) The Erin's law legislative task
10 force is established for the purpose of adopting a model curriculum
11 for the prevention of sexual abuse of students in kindergarten
12 through twelfth grade in the state of Washington. The task force
13 includes:

14 (i) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house
15 of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of
16 representatives;

17 (ii) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the
18 senate, appointed by the leaders of the two largest caucuses of the
19 senate;

20 (iii) The superintendent of public instruction or the
21 superintendent's designee;

22 (iv) The chair of the state board of education or the chair's
23 designee;

24 (v) The director of the department of early learning or the
25 director's designee;

26 (vi) The attorney general or the attorney general's designee;

27 (vii) One representative of a state association of principals;

28 (viii) One teacher selected by the largest union of teachers in
29 the state;

30 (ix) One teacher selected by the office of the superintendent of
31 public instruction;

32 (x) One curriculum development expert selected by the office of
33 the superintendent of public instruction;

34 (xi) One representative of a state association of school
35 counselors;

36 (xii) One victim advocate representing sexual assault victims;
37 and

38 (xiii) Two survivors of sexual assault.

1 (b) Subject to approval by a majority of the legislative members
2 on the task force, the task force may invite up to two additional
3 persons to serve on the task force. Persons serving in accordance
4 with this subsection (1)(b) must have specific expertise that is
5 necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

6 (c) All members of the task force are voting members.

7 (2) The task force must choose its cochairs from among its
8 legislative membership. The member from the minority caucus of the
9 house of representatives shall convene the initial meeting of the
10 task force.

11 (3) The task force shall:

12 (a) Adopt a model curriculum for the prevention of sexual abuse
13 of students from kindergarten through twelfth grade, and report its
14 findings and recommendations to the governor, the superintendent of
15 public instruction, and the appropriate committees of the house of
16 representatives and the senate by December 1, 2017. The model
17 curriculum, which may be developed in whole or part by the task force
18 or selected from existing curricula, must:

19 (i) Be evidence-based;

20 (ii) Be age-appropriate and culturally sensitive;

21 (iii) Include a professional training component for
22 administrators, teachers, and other school staff on talking to
23 students about child sexual abuse prevention, the effects of sexual
24 abuse on children, handling disclosures, and mandatory reporting;

25 (iv) Include a component that encourages parental involvement in
26 child sexual abuse prevention; and

27 (v) Allow school districts the flexibility to determine when and
28 how the curriculum is offered to students; and

29 (b) Identify funding sources that may be used by school districts
30 choosing to implement a curriculum for the prevention of sexual abuse
31 of students that complies with (a)(i) through (iv) of this
32 subsection.

33 (4) Staff support for the task force must be provided by senate
34 committee services and the house of representatives office of program
35 research.

36 (5) Legislative members of the task force are reimbursed for
37 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
38 members are not entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses if they
39 are elected officials or are participating on behalf of an employer,

1 governmental entity, or other organization. Any reimbursement for
2 other nonlegislative members is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.

3 (6) The expenses of the task force must be paid jointly by the
4 senate and the house of representatives. Task force expenditures are
5 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee
6 and the house of representatives executive rules committee, or their
7 successor committees.

8 (7) This section expires January 31, 2018.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall make
12 the model curriculum adopted under section 2, chapter . . ., Laws of
13 2017 (section 2 of this act) available on its web site.

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