
SENATE BILL 5236

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Zeiger, Fain, Rolfes, Warnick, Rivers, Lias, Angel, Keiser, Kuderer, and Hunt

Read first time 01/18/17. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of a civic learning public-
2 private partnership; adding a new chapter to Title 28A RCW; and
3 making an appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** INTENT. Civic learning teaches students
6 how to be active, informed, and engaged citizens. Washington has
7 included civics education in high school graduation requirements.
8 However, high quality civic learning is not being taught in a
9 systematic way in grades kindergarten through twelve. Pressure to
10 emphasize other areas of the curriculum relegates civic education to
11 a lesser role. Teachers in elementary and secondary schools lack
12 widespread access to professional development and open resources to
13 support teaching high quality civic learning. Collaboration to
14 enhance civic learning between schools and community-based programs
15 that offer expanded learning opportunities after school and in the
16 summer has not been widely established. Expanded learning providers
17 also lack access to professional development in civic learning. The
18 deficiencies are particularly acute for students in rural and lower
19 income schools.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** PURPOSE. The purposes of this act are to:

1 (1) Create demonstration civic learning partnerships in six
2 communities across Washington that will result in broad
3 implementation of high quality civic learning in grades kindergarten
4 through twelve and in expanded learning programs;

5 (2) Provide in-depth professional development in civic learning
6 curricula that meets the six proven practices of civic learning
7 established by the civic mission of schools;

8 (3) Establish goals and monitor benchmarks implementation of high
9 quality civic learning for all students within the six partnerships;

10 (4) Create and make available open resource funding to promote
11 this engagement;

12 (5) Offer regional professional development to teachers and
13 expanded learning providers; and

14 (6) Establish collaborative models in civic learning between
15 expanded learning opportunities and in-school programs in the
16 demonstration partnerships and regional efforts.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** PARTNERSHIP—ESTABLISHED. (1) A civic
18 learning public-private partnership is established, composed of the
19 following members:

20 (a) Four members of the legislature, with one member from each
21 major caucus of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker
22 of the house of representatives, and one member from each major
23 caucus of the senate appointed by the majority and minority leaders
24 of the senate;

25 (b) The governor or the governor's designee;

26 (c) The secretary of state or the secretary's designee;

27 (d) Three teachers to be appointed by the superintendent of
28 public instruction, with one each representing the elementary,
29 middle, and secondary education sectors;

30 (e) One representative of a statewide organization of social
31 studies teachers;

32 (f) Two representatives from an organization with a history of
33 promoting civics education and public legal education;

34 (g) One member from a statewide expanded learning provider to be
35 appointed by a statewide expanded learning provider;

36 (h) One expanded learning provider to be appointed by the
37 statewide expanded learning provider appointed in (g) of this
38 subsection;

1 (i) A representative from the administrative office of the courts
2 to be appointed by the administrator for the courts; and

3 (j) Two representatives from the office of the superintendent of
4 public instruction, with one involved in curriculum development and
5 one involved in teacher professional development, to be appointed by
6 the superintendent of public instruction.

7 (2)(a) All members must be appointed effective August 1, 2017.

8 (b) Terms of appointment are two years, except the initial term
9 of appointments under subsection (2)(d), (e), (f), and (g) is three
10 years.

11 (3) The chair of the partnership must be selected by the members
12 of the partnership from among the legislative members.

13 (4) To the extent funds are appropriated or are available, the
14 partnership may hire a staff person who shall reside in the office of
15 an agency or organization represented on the civic learning public-
16 private partnership. Additional technical and logistical support may
17 be provided by the agencies and organizations on the civic learning
18 public-private partnership.

19 (5)(a) Legislative members of the partnership shall receive per
20 diem and travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120.

21 (b) Travel and other expenses of members of the partnership shall
22 be provided from funds available in the Washington civic learning
23 public-private partnership account.

24 (c) Teachers appointed as members by the superintendent of public
25 instruction may be paid their travel expenses in accordance with RCW
26 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 from funds available in the Washington civic
27 learning public-private partnership account. If the attendance of a
28 teacher member at an official meeting of the partnership results in a
29 need for a school district to employ a substitute, payment for the
30 substitute may be made by the superintendent of public instruction
31 from funds available in the Washington civic learning public-private
32 partnership account. A school district must release a teacher member
33 to attend an official meeting of the partnership if the partnership
34 pays the district for a substitute or pays the travel expenses of the
35 teacher member.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** RESPONSIBILITIES. (1) The goals of the
37 civic learning public-private partnership are to ensure that students
38 in K-12 schools and in expanded learning opportunities are equipped
39 with the knowledge and skills to engage effectively in government as

1 citizens. In carrying out this task, the civic learning public-
2 private partnership must:

3 (a) Establish six demonstration civic learning partnerships with
4 local communities to assess and implement in-depth civic learning in
5 kindergarten through twelfth grade. High quality civic education
6 programs must include on-site professional development, and open
7 resources must be made available for small grants to teachers. High
8 quality civic resource persons must contract to help the six
9 demonstration civic learning partnerships to plan and implement
10 extensive civic learning. Expanded learning opportunities after
11 school and in the summer in local communities must be identified and
12 added to the partnership and professional development and open
13 resource opportunities. A core local team must monitor and report the
14 level of penetration of civic learning within the schools and after-
15 school programs;

16 (b) Contract or facilitate with high quality civic learning
17 providers to offer regional and statewide civic learning professional
18 development to K-12 teachers and providers of expanded learning
19 opportunities;

20 (c) Ensure that underserved students are prioritized in the
21 implementation, including rural, low-income, and immigrant and
22 refugee students;

23 (d) Work with the office of the superintendent of public
24 instruction to develop evaluation standards and a procedure for
25 endorsing civic learning education curriculum that the partnership
26 determines should be recommended for use in school districts and in
27 expanded learning opportunities curriculum and programming;

28 (e) Work with the office of the superintendent of public
29 instruction to integrate these efforts into their civic education
30 initiative;

31 (f) Assist in developing academic guidelines and standards-based
32 protocols for use by teachers and classroom volunteers who
33 participate in delivering civic education to students in the public
34 schools;

35 (g) Provide an annual report by December 1st each year to the
36 governor, the superintendent of public instruction, and the
37 committees of the legislature with oversight over K-12 education and
38 after-school programs; and

1 (h) Develop a web-based interactive tool for teaching civics,
2 particularly state, local, and tribal government civics, in
3 Washington state.

4 (2)(a) The civic learning public-private partnership must offer
5 open resources in small grant amounts to teachers and providers of
6 expanded learning opportunities to implement specific civic learning
7 projects.

8 (b) The civic learning public-private partnership must select six
9 school districts that are diverse geographically, size-wise, and
10 demographically to participate as demonstration civic learning
11 partnerships, along with expanded learning programs. These
12 demonstration partnerships must commit to integrate six proven
13 practices of civic learning, establish local partnerships, and
14 monitor implementation. In exchange, the civic learning public-
15 private partnership must provide assistance with curriculum,
16 professional development, and monitoring in-depth implementation of
17 high quality civic learning.

18 (3) State civic education standards: Six proven practices for
19 effective civic learning and nationally recognized college, career,
20 and civic life frameworks for social studies state standards must
21 guide the choice and implementation of professional development for
22 schools and after-school programs.

23 (4) The office of the superintendent of public instruction must
24 make a list of approved materials available to districts and
25 districts must provide the opportunity to access standards and must
26 publicize the availability of these materials.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** WASHINGTON CIVIC LEARNING PUBLIC-PRIVATE
28 PARTNERSHIP ACCOUNT. The Washington civic learning public-private
29 partnership account is created in the custody of the state treasurer.
30 The purpose of the account is to support the Washington civic
31 learning public-private partnership and the work of the partnership
32 as provided in section 3 of this act. Revenues to the account may
33 include gifts or grants from the private sector or foundations,
34 federal funds, legislative appropriations, or funds from other
35 sources. Only the superintendent of public instruction or the
36 superintendent's designee may authorize expenditures from the account
37 and only at the direction of the partnership. The account is subject
38 to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation
39 is not required for expenditures.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act
2 constitute a new chapter in Title 28A RCW.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The sum of two hundred fifty thousand
4 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
5 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, from the general fund to the
6 office of the superintendent of public instruction for the purposes
7 of this act.

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