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HOUSE BILL 1109

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State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Jones, Peery, Brough, Jacobsen, Miller, Brumsickle, Rasmussen, Betrozoff, Pruitt, G. Fisher, Phillips, Valle, Holland, Dorn, Roland, Dellwo, Braddock, Cole, Sprenkle, R. King, Winsley, Ferguson, Riley, Vance, Wineberry, Scott, Broback, Leonard, R. Johnson, Ludwig, Silver, H. Myers, Cooper and Brekke.

Read first time January 18, 1991. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to education; creating new sections; making an  
2 appropriation; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that an increasing  
5 number of children are entering the state's public schools with  
6 learning impairments caused by the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco  
7 by their mothers during pregnancy. Many of these children suffer from  
8 mental retardation, poor social abilities, low cognitive skills,  
9 attention deficit disorders, hyperactivity, or speech problems.

10 The legislature further finds that educating these children will  
11 require additional resources, and perhaps new educational strategies  
12 and techniques. The extent of these additional resources and the most  
13 appropriate strategies and techniques are not known at this time. If  
14 additional resources are not provided, teachers will be required to

1 devote significant time to these students to the detriment of other  
2 children in the classroom.

3 The legislature further finds that many of these learning  
4 impairments are preventable, and that increased parental education on  
5 the effects of substance abuse during pregnancy would aid in reducing  
6 the number of children with learning impairments.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The task force on the children of substance  
8 abusers is created. The task force shall:

9 (1) Identify the current and projected number of children in  
10 Washington who have learning impairments caused by mothers who abused  
11 alcohol or drugs during pregnancy, and the number who are in, or will  
12 be entering, Washington's public schools. The task force shall also  
13 investigate the nature of the special needs of these children;

14 (2) Review current social service and public school programs to  
15 address the special needs of these children, and prepare an analysis of  
16 the adequacy of these programs;

17 (3) Review current educational programs designed to reduce  
18 substance abuse during pregnancy, and prepare an analysis of the  
19 adequacy of these programs; and

20 (4) Develop recommendations for enhancing, enlarging, or replacing  
21 the existing social service and educational programs for these children  
22 and their parents.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) Membership on the task force shall  
24 include representatives from the:

25 (a) Senate, one each from the majority and minority parties,  
26 selected by the president of the senate;

1 (b) House of representatives, one each from the majority and  
2 minority parties, selected by the speaker of the house of  
3 representatives;

4 (c) Office of the superintendent of public instruction;

5 (d) Department of health;

6 (e) County health departments;

7 (f) Department of social and health services, bureau of alcohol and  
8 substance abuse;

9 (g) University of Washington's center for child development and  
10 mental retardation;

11 (h) Washington education association;

12 (i) Association of Washington school principals;

13 (j) Washington state school directors' association;

14 (k) Washington association of school administrators;

15 (l) Washington state parent-teachers association; and

16 (m) Learning disability association of Washington.

17 (2) Organizations shall select their respective representatives.  
18 The task force shall select a chair from among its members at its first  
19 meeting.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Staff support for the task force shall be  
21 provided by the office of the superintendent of public instruction.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The task force shall report its final  
23 findings and recommendations to the appropriate standing committees of  
24 the legislature before December 1, 1991.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The task force shall expire December 31,  
26 1991.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 7.**    The sum of thirty thousand dollars, or as  
2 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium  
3 ending June 30, 1993, from the general fund to the office of the  
4 superintendent of public instruction to provide support to the task  
5 force.