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HOUSE BILL 2143

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Representatives Beeksma, Smith, Hymes, Backlund, Goldsmith, Thompson, McMorris, Johnson, Mastin, Mulliken, D. Sommers, Koster, D. Schmidt and Hargrove

Read first time 01/08/96. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to diplomas for children who receive home-based  
2 instruction; adding a new section to chapter 28A.200 RCW; adding a new  
3 section to chapter 28B.80 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.200  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The state board of education, in consultation with parents who  
8 provide home-based instruction and school district personnel, shall  
9 establish a process by which children who have received home-based  
10 instruction may receive a high school diploma issued by a school  
11 district or the state board of education. The process shall be  
12 established by the state board before February 1, 1997, for initial  
13 implementation in the 1997-98 school year.

14 (2) To receive a diploma under this section, a student who has  
15 received home-based instruction shall:

16 (a) Submit evidence that he or she has met the minimum state high  
17 school graduation requirements established by the state board;

1 (b) Submit the annual academic progress assessments required in RCW  
2 28A.200.010(2) or test scores from a standardized achievement test  
3 administered in accordance with RCW 28A.200.010(3) for the prior four  
4 years;

5 (c) Submit evidence that other requirements in RCW 28A.225.010(4)  
6 were met during the period in which home-based instruction was  
7 provided; and

8 (d) Meet other reasonable requirements established by the state  
9 board of education.

10 (3) A diploma shall be issued to a child who has received home-  
11 based instruction if the child has reasonably demonstrated, as  
12 determined by rules established by the state board of education, that  
13 he or she has met the minimum state graduation requirements and  
14 complied with this chapter. Competency testing may be used in lieu of  
15 meeting graduation requirements for specific courses. In addition, the  
16 use of applied vocational and technical courses and experiences shall  
17 be recognized to determine whether graduation requirements have been  
18 met.

19 (4) Individual school districts shall not be required to issue  
20 diplomas to children who have received home-based instruction pursuant  
21 to subsections (1) through (3) of this section.

22 (5) In addition to the diplomas issued under subsections (1)  
23 through (3) of this section, children who have received home-based  
24 instruction who earn an associate of arts degree through the high  
25 school options program in RCW 28A.600.300 through 28A.600.400 shall,  
26 upon request, be awarded a diploma issued by the state board of  
27 education or the school district in which the child's declaration of  
28 intent is filed.

29 (6) School districts and the state board of education may not  
30 charge parents or children for the review process or for issuance of a  
31 diploma under this section.

32 (7) The state board of education shall not require children who  
33 have received home-based instruction to obtain a diploma.

34 (8) The issuance of diplomas in accordance with this section does  
35 not preclude the issuance of diplomas by approved private schools to  
36 children who receive home-based instruction.

37 (9) The state board of education shall develop rules to implement  
38 this section.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.** By February 1, 1997, the state board of  
2 education shall recommend to the appropriate committees of the  
3 legislature a method for reimbursing school districts and the state  
4 board of education for the cost associated with reviewing submitted  
5 information and issuing home-based instruction diplomas under section  
6 1 of this act.

7        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.80 RCW  
8 to read as follows:

9        The admission standards for four-year institutions established  
10 pursuant to RCW 28B.80.350(2) shall not require that children who have  
11 received home-based instruction have a diploma or transcript for  
12 admission. However, these colleges and universities may require a  
13 portfolio of student work or other information regarding the child's  
14 prior academic studies.

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