

2 **ESHB 1378** - S COMM AMD
3 By Committee on Education

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5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
6 following:

7 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that school districts
8 may seek to provide instructional programs to students who are
9 academically at risk, or who have been subject to disciplinary actions
10 due to behavioral problems. These students have very different
11 learning needs, and providing instruction to these students can be
12 difficult for school districts. The legislature intends to create
13 additional options for the education of children who are likely to be
14 suspended, expelled, or who are exhibiting poor academic performance or
15 behavioral problems.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.150
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 (1) The board of directors of school districts may contract with
19 alternative educational service providers for eligible students.
20 Alternative educational service providers that the school district may
21 contract with include, but are not limited to:

- 22 (a) Other schools;
- 23 (b) Alternative education programs not operated by the school
24 district;
- 25 (c) Education centers;
- 26 (d) Skill centers;
- 27 (e) Dropout prevention programs; or
- 28 (f) Other public or private organizations, excluding sectarian or
29 religious organizations.

30 (2) Eligible students include students who are likely to be
31 expelled or who are enrolled in the school district but have been
32 suspended, are academically at risk, or who have been subject to
33 repeated disciplinary actions due to behavioral problems.

34 (3) If a school district board of directors chooses to initiate
35 specialized programs for students at risk of expulsion or who are

1 failing academically by contracting out with alternative educational
2 service providers identified in subsection (1) of this section, the
3 school district board of directors and the organization must specify
4 the specific learning standards that students are expected to achieve.
5 Placement of the student shall be jointly determined by the school
6 district, the student's parent or legal guardian, and the alternative
7 educational service provider.

8 (4) For the purpose of this section, the superintendent of public
9 instruction shall adopt rules for reporting and documenting enrollment.
10 Students may reenter at the grade level appropriate to the student's
11 ability. Students who are sixteen years of age or older may take the
12 GED test.

13 (5) The board of directors of school districts may require that
14 students who would otherwise be suspended or expelled attend schools or
15 programs listed in subsection (1) of this section as a condition of
16 continued enrollment in the school district.

17 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.205.020 and 1993 c 211 s 2 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

19 Only eligible common school dropouts shall be enrolled in a
20 certified education center for reimbursement by the superintendent of
21 public instruction as provided in RCW 28A.205.040. ~~((No))~~ A person
22 ~~((shall be considered))~~ is not an eligible common school dropout
23 ~~((who))~~ if: (1) The person has completed high school, (2) ~~((who))~~ the
24 person has not reached his or her ~~((thirteenth))~~ twelfth birthday or
25 has passed his or her twentieth birthday, ~~((or))~~ (3) the person shows
26 proficiency beyond the high school level in a test approved by the
27 superintendent of public instruction to be given as part of the initial
28 diagnostic procedure, or (4) ~~((until))~~ less than one month has passed
29 after ~~((he or she))~~ the person has dropped out of any common school and
30 the education center has not received written verification from a
31 school official of the common school last attended in this state that
32 ~~((such))~~ the person is no longer in attendance at ~~((such))~~ the
33 school ~~((, unless such center has been requested to admit such person by~~
34 ~~written communication of))~~. A person is an eligible common school
35 dropout even if one month has not passed since the person dropped out
36 if the board of directors or its designee, of that common school, ((or
37 ~~unless such))~~ requests the center to admit the person because the
38 person has dropped out or because the person is unable to attend a

1 particular common school because of disciplinary reasons, including
2 suspension and/or expulsion (~~therefrom~~). The fact that any person
3 may be subject to RCW 28A.225.010 through 28A.225.150, 28A.200.010, and
4 28A.200.020 shall not affect his or her qualifications as an eligible
5 common school dropout under this chapter.

6 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.205.080 and 1993 c 211 s 7 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 The legislature recognizes that education centers provide a
9 necessary and effective service for students who have dropped out of
10 common school programs. Education centers have demonstrated success in
11 preparing such youth for productive roles in society and are an
12 integral part of the state's program to address the needs of students
13 who have dropped out of school. The superintendent of public
14 instruction shall distribute funds, consistent with legislative
15 appropriations, allocated specifically for education centers in accord
16 with chapter 28A.205 RCW. The legislature encourages school districts
17 to explore cooperation with education centers pursuant to section 2 of
18 this act."

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22 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "students;" strike the
23 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 28A.205.020 and
24 28A.205.080; adding a new section to chapter 28A.150 RCW; and creating
25 a new section."

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