
HOUSE BILL 1607

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Anderson, Haigh, Talcott, Quall, Keiser, Kenney, Schual-Berke, Edmonds, Rockefeller, McIntire, O'Brien, Darneille and Santos; by request of Governor Locke and Superintendent of Public Instruction

Read first time 01/30/2001. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to high-quality alternative routes to teacher
2 certification; adding a new chapter to Title 28A RCW; creating a new
3 section; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds and declares:

6 (1) Teacher qualifications and effectiveness are the most important
7 influences on student learning in schools.

8 (2) Preparation of individuals to become well-qualified, effective
9 teachers must be high quality.

10 (3) Teachers who complete high-quality alternative route programs
11 with intensive field-based experience, adequate coursework, and strong
12 mentorship do as well or better than teachers who complete traditional
13 preparation programs.

14 (4) High-quality alternative route programs can provide more
15 flexibility and expedience for individuals to transition from their
16 current career to teaching.

17 (5) High-quality alternative route programs can help school
18 districts fill subject matter shortage areas and areas with shortages
19 due to geographic location.

1 (6) Regardless of route, all candidates for teacher certification
2 must meet the high standards required by the state.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** There is hereby created a statewide
4 partnership grant program to provide new high-quality alternative
5 routes to teacher certification. To the extent funds are appropriated,
6 funds provided under this partnership grant program shall be used
7 solely for school districts, or consortia of school districts, to
8 partner with state-approved higher education teacher preparation
9 programs to provide one or more of three alternative route programs in
10 section 5 of this act, aimed at recruiting candidates to teaching in
11 subject matter shortage areas and areas with shortages due to
12 geographic location. Districts, or consortia of districts, may also
13 include their educational service districts in their partnership grant
14 program. Partnership programs receiving grants may enroll candidates
15 as early as January 2002.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) Each district or consortia of school
17 districts applying for state funds through this program shall submit a
18 proposal to the Washington professional educator standards board
19 specifying:

20 (a) Which route or routes the partnership program intends to offer
21 and a detailed description of how routes will be structured and
22 operated by the partnership;

23 (b) The number of candidates that will be enrolled per route;

24 (c) Identification, indication of commitment, and description of
25 role of approved teacher preparation programs partnering with the
26 district or consortia of districts;

27 (d) An assurance of district provision of adequate training for
28 mentor teachers either through participation in a state mentor training
29 academy or district-provided training that meets state-established
30 mentor-training standards specific to the mentoring of alternative
31 route candidates;

32 (e) An assurance of provision of significant time for mentor
33 teachers in classrooms with the alternative route teacher candidates.
34 Partnerships must provide a full-time mentor in each classroom with a
35 candidate until such time that the candidate demonstrates competency
36 necessary to manage the classroom with part-time supervision and
37 guidance from a mentor;

1 (f) A description of the rigorous screening process for applicants
2 to alternative route programs, including entry requirements specific to
3 each route, as provided in section 5 of this act; and

4 (g) Development and use of a teacher development plan for each
5 candidate that specifies the alternative route coursework and training
6 required of each candidate by comparing the candidate's prior
7 experience and coursework with the state's new performance-based
8 standards for residency certification and adjusting requirements
9 accordingly.

10 (2) Districts may apply for funds through this program for stipends
11 for interns during their mentored internship and for stipends for
12 mentorship program. For both intern stipends and accompanying mentor
13 stipends, the per intern district request for funds may not exceed the
14 amount designated by the BA+0 cell on the statewide teacher salary
15 allocation schedule.

16 (3) Districts may enroll candidates seeking endorsements in
17 nonshortage areas, however these candidates are not eligible for state
18 funds under this program.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The professional educator standards
20 board, with support from the office of the superintendent of public
21 instruction, shall select school districts and consortia of school
22 districts to receive partnership grants from funds appropriated by the
23 legislature for this purpose. Factors to be considered in selecting
24 proposals include:

25 (a) The degree to which the district, or consortia of districts in
26 partnership, are currently experiencing teacher shortages;

27 (b) The degree to which the proposal addresses criteria specified
28 in section 3 of this act and is in keeping with specifications of
29 program routes in section 5 of this act;

30 (c) The cost-effectiveness of the proposed program; and

31 (d) Demonstrated district and in-kind contributions to the program.

32 (2) Selection of proposals shall also take into consideration the
33 need to ensure an adequate number of candidates for each type of route
34 in order to evaluate their success.

35 (3) Funds appropriated for the program in this chapter shall be
36 administered by the office of the superintendent of public instruction.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Partnership grants funded under this chapter
2 shall operate one to three specific route programs.

3 (1) Partnership grant programs seeking funds to operate route one
4 programs shall enroll currently employed paraeducators with
5 transferable associate of arts' degrees seeking residency teacher
6 certification with endorsements in special education or English as a
7 second language. In addition, partnership programs shall uphold entry
8 requirements for candidates that include:

9 (a) District or building validation of qualifications, including
10 three years of successful student interaction and leadership as a
11 paraeducator;

12 (b) Successful passage of the statewide basic skills exam, when
13 available; and

14 (c) Meeting the age, good moral character, and personal fitness
15 requirements adopted by rule for teachers.

16 (2) Partnership grant programs seeking funds to operate route two
17 programs shall enroll currently employed noncertificated staff with
18 bachelors' degrees seeking residency teacher certification in subject
19 matter shortage areas and areas with shortages due to geographic
20 location. In addition, partnership grant programs shall uphold entry
21 requirements for candidates that include:

22 (a) District or building validation of qualifications, including
23 three years of successful student interaction and leadership as
24 noncertificated staff;

25 (b) A bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degree with a 2.75
26 grade point average until the state content test is available, then
27 successful completion of the content test;

28 (c) Meeting the age, good moral character, and personal fitness
29 requirements adopted by rule for teachers; and

30 (d) Successful passage of the statewide basic skills exam, when
31 available.

32 (3) Partnership grant programs seeking funds to operate route three
33 programs shall enroll individuals with bachelors' degrees not currently
34 employed in the school district seeking residency teacher certification
35 in subject matter shortage areas, other than special education or
36 English as a second language, or shortages due to geographic location.
37 In addition, partnership programs shall uphold entry requirements for
38 candidates that include:

39 (a) Five years' experience in the work force;

1 (b) A bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degree with a 2.75
2 grade point average until the state content test is available, then
3 successful completion of the content test;

4 (c) External validation of qualifications, including demonstrated
5 successful experience with students or children, such as references
6 letters and letters of support from previous employers;

7 (d) Meeting the age, good moral character, and personal fitness
8 requirements adopted by rule for teachers; and

9 (e) Successful passage of statewide basic skills exams, when
10 available.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The alternative route conditional
12 scholarship program is created under the following guidelines:

13 (1) The program shall be administered by the higher education
14 coordinating board. In administering the program, the higher education
15 coordinating board has the following powers and duties:

16 (a) To adopt necessary rules and develop guidelines to administer
17 the program;

18 (b) To collect and manage repayments from participants who do not
19 meet their service obligations; and

20 (c) To accept grants and donations from public and private sources
21 for the program.

22 (2) The Washington professional educator standards board shall
23 select the paraeducators and other noncertificated staff accepted in
24 alternative routes one or two through the partnership grant program, as
25 described in section 5 of this act, who are eligible to receive
26 conditional scholarships.

27 (3) In order to receive conditional scholarship awards, recipients
28 shall be accepted and maintain enrollment in alternative certification
29 routes one or two through the partnership grant program, as provided in
30 section 5 of this act. Recipients must continue to make satisfactory
31 progress towards completing the alternative route certification program
32 and receiving a residency teaching certificate.

33 (4) For the purpose of this chapter, a conditional scholarship is
34 a loan that is forgiven in exchange for service as a certificated
35 teacher employed in a Washington state K-12 public school. The state
36 shall forgive one year of loan obligation for every two years a
37 recipient teaches in a public school. Recipients that fail to continue
38 a course of study leading to residency teacher certification or cease

1 to teach in a public school in the state of Washington in their
2 endorsement area are required to repay the remaining loan principal
3 with interest.

4 (5) Recipients who fail to fulfill the required teaching obligation
5 are required to repay the remaining loan principal with interest and
6 any other applicable fees. The higher education coordinating board
7 shall adopt rules to define the terms for repayment, including
8 applicable interest rates, fees, and deferments.

9 (6) To the extent funds are appropriated, the annual amount of the
10 scholarship is the annual cost of tuition for the alternative route
11 certification program in which the recipient is enrolled, not to exceed
12 four thousand dollars. The board may adjust the annual award by the
13 rate of undergraduate resident tuition increases at the public four-
14 year research institutions of higher education.

15 (7) The higher education coordinating board may deposit all
16 appropriations, collections, and any other funds received for the
17 program in this chapter in the student loan account authorized in RCW
18 28B.102.060.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This chapter expires June 30, 2005.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The Washington state institute for public
21 policy shall submit an interim evaluation of partnership grant programs
22 funded under this act to the Washington professional educator standards
23 board by December 1, 2002. The institute shall submit a final
24 evaluation to the Washington professional educator standards board by
25 September 1, 2005.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Sections 1 through 7 of this act constitute
27 a new chapter in Title 28A RCW.

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