
SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5695

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Eide, Finkbeiner, McAuliffe, Franklin, Hewitt, Rasmussen, Johnson, Shin, Patterson, Oke, Winsley and Kohl-Welles; by request of Governor Locke and Superintendent of Public Instruction)

READ FIRST TIME 03/08/01.

1 AN ACT Relating to high-quality alternative routes to teacher
2 certification; adding a new chapter to Title 28A RCW; and providing an
3 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 residency teacher
2 certification must meet the high standards required by the state.

3 The legislature recognizes widespread concerns about the potential
4 for teacher shortages and finds that classified instructional staff in
5 public schools represent a great untapped resource for recruiting the
6 teachers of the future.

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

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

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

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

28 (c) Identification, indication of commitment, and description of
29 role of approved teacher preparation programs partnering with the
30 district or consortia of districts;

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

36 (e) An assurance of the provision of significant time for mentor
37 teachers with the alternative route teacher candidates throughout the

1 internship. Partnerships must provide mentoring in classrooms until
2 such time that the candidates demonstrate competency necessary to
3 manage the classroom with supervision and guidance from a mentor;

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

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

13 (2) Districts may apply for funds through this program for stipends
14 for interns during their mentored internship and for stipends for
15 mentorship program.

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 partnership grant program in this
36 chapter shall be administered by the office of the superintendent of
37 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 classified instructional
5 employees with transferable associate degrees seeking residency teacher
6 certification with endorsements in special education or English as a
7 second language. It is anticipated that candidates enrolled in this
8 route will complete both their bachelor's degree and requirements for
9 residency certification in two years or less, including a mentored
10 internship to be completed in the final year. In addition, partnership
11 programs shall uphold entry requirements for candidates that include:

12 (a) District or building validation of qualifications, including
13 three years of successful student interaction and leadership as a
14 classified instructional employee;

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

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

19 (2) Partnership grant programs seeking funds to operate route two
20 programs shall enroll currently employed classified staff with
21 bachelors' degrees seeking residency teacher certification in subject
22 matter shortage areas and areas with shortages due to geographic
23 location. Candidates enrolled in this route must complete a mentored
24 internship complemented by flexibly scheduled training and coursework
25 offered at a local site, such as a school or educational service
26 district, or on-line or via video-conference over the K-20 network, in
27 collaboration with the partnership program's higher education partner.
28 In addition, partnership grant programs shall uphold entry requirements
29 for candidates that include:

30 (a) District or building validation of qualifications, including
31 three years of successful student interaction and leadership as
32 classified staff;

33 (b) A bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degree. The
34 individual's grade point average will be considered as a factor;

35 (c) Successful completion of the content test, once the state
36 content test is available;

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

1 (e) Successful passage of the statewide basic skills exam, when
2 available.

3 (3) Partnership grant programs seeking funds to operate route three
4 programs shall enroll individuals with bachelors' degrees seeking
5 residency teacher certification in subject matter shortage areas, other
6 than special education or English as a second language, or shortages
7 due to geographic location. In addition, partnership programs shall
8 uphold entry requirements for candidates that include:

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

10 (b) A bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degree. The
11 individual's grade point average will be considered as a factor;

12 (c) Successful completion of the content test, once the state
13 content test is available;

14 (d) External validation of qualifications, including demonstrated
15 successful experience with students or children, such as references
16 letters and letters of support from previous employers;

17 (e) Meeting the age, good moral character, and personal fitness
18 requirements adopted by rule for teachers; and

19 (f) Successful passage of statewide basic skills exams, when
20 available.

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

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

26 (a) To adopt necessary rules and develop guidelines to administer
27 the program;

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

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

32 (2) The Washington professional educator standards board shall
33 select the classified instructional staff and other classified staff
34 accepted in alternative routes one or two through the partnership grant
35 program, as described in section 5 of this act, who are eligible to
36 receive conditional scholarships.

37 (3) In order to receive conditional scholarship awards, recipients
38 shall be accepted and maintain enrollment in alternative certification

1 routes one or two through the partnership grant program, as provided in
2 section 5 of this act. Recipients must continue to make satisfactory
3 progress towards completing the alternative route certification program
4 and receiving a residency teaching certificate.

5 (4) For the purpose of this chapter, a conditional scholarship is
6 a loan that is forgiven in exchange for service as a certificated
7 teacher employed in a Washington state K-12 public school. The state
8 shall forgive one year of loan obligation for every two years a
9 recipient teaches in a public school. Recipients that fail to continue
10 a course of study leading to residency teacher certification or cease
11 to teach in a public school in the state of Washington in their
12 endorsement area are required to repay the remaining loan principal
13 with interest.

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

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

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

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

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The Washington state institute for public
31 policy shall submit to the education and fiscal committees of the
32 legislature, the governor, and the Washington professional educator
33 standards board an interim evaluation of partnership grant programs
34 funded under this act by December 1, 2002, and a final evaluation by
35 December 1, 2004.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Sections 1 through 8 of this act constitute
2 a new chapter in Title 28A RCW.

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