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SENATE BILL 5695

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

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 01/31/2001. 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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