
HOUSE BILL 2814

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Upthegrove, Delvin, Quall, Linville, Wood, Ruderman, Schual-Berke, Chase, Santos and Kagi

Read first time 01/21/2004. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to civics education; adding a new section to
2 chapter 28A.600 RCW; creating a new section; and making appropriations.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that students need to
5 know and understand the structure, workings, and roots of our state and
6 nation's democratic institutions and traditions. The legislature
7 further finds that studies on the historical and civics knowledge of
8 America's students suggest that too few students are learning those
9 lessons well. The United States department of education's national
10 assessment of education progress shows that fewer than twenty-five
11 percent of America's students are proficient in either history or
12 civics. In addition, while most of the states have learning standards
13 in the two subjects, only twelve states have enough depth and breadth
14 in the standards to ensure that students will understand their civic
15 responsibilities and opportunities once the students reach adulthood.
16 The legislature intends to help school districts improve instruction in
17 civics by providing professional development for teachers and by
18 creating an award program for students who demonstrate a strong

1 understanding of the state's civics standards and who exhibit
2 leadership in the civic life of their communities.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.600
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 The Daniel J. Evans civic education award is established to
6 recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of students who have
7 demonstrated a strong understanding of the civics essential learning
8 requirements. The students must demonstrate this understanding through
9 completion of at least one of the classroom-based civics assessment
10 models developed by the superintendent of public instruction, and
11 through leadership in the civic life of their communities. The
12 superintendent of public instruction shall annually select two students
13 from eastern Washington and two students from western Washington to
14 receive the award, and shall notify the governor and legislature with
15 the names of the recipients.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of ten thousand dollars, or as much
17 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the general fund to
18 the superintendent of public instruction for the fiscal year ending
19 June 30, 2005, to provide professional development grants to teachers
20 who have used one or more of the classroom-based civics assessment
21 models developed by the superintendent of public instruction. The
22 grants may be used to attend state, regional, or national institutes,
23 trainings, and conferences related to civics education, if the
24 institutes, trainings, and conferences are covering skills and
25 knowledge that are consistent with Washington's civics essential
26 academic learning requirements.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of thirty-five thousand dollars, or
28 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the general
29 fund to the superintendent of public instruction for the fiscal year
30 ending June 30, 2005, to provide summer professional development
31 opportunities for teachers in implementing the civics essential
32 academic learning requirements and the classroom-based civics
33 assessments developed by the superintendent of public instruction.

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