

HB 3127 - H AMD 749

By Representative Nixon

WITHDRAWN 2/14/2006

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the
4 complexity of modern political life has created a demand for
5 informed citizens who are willing not only to vote, but also to
6 participate in the elections process.

7 (2) The purpose of this section is to create a pilot project
8 that will help to graduate students who are better voters, better
9 citizens, and who are ready to take an informed and responsible
10 place in society.

11 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction
12 shall work with selected county auditors' offices to develop an
13 interactive high school civics curriculum to help students learn
14 how to become informed citizens. The curriculum shall meet the
15 requirements for the office of the superintendent of public
16 instruction's classroom-based assessments. Staff from the office of
17 the superintendent of public instruction shall work directly in the
18 curriculum development.

19 (4) Counties shall apply to, and be selected by, the office of
20 the superintendent of public instruction to participate in the
21 pilot project under this section. A maximum of fifteen counties may
22 participate.

23 (5) The curriculum shall include, but not be limited to:

24 (a) Local government organization;

25 (b) A discussion of ballot measures, initiatives, and referenda;

26 (c) The role of the precinct in defining ballots, candidates,
27 and political activities;

28 (d) The roles and responsibilities of taxing jurisdictions in
29 establishing ballot measures; and

30 (e) The work of conducting elections.

1 (6) The study may include in the curriculum civics essential
2 academic learning requirements relating to examining representative
3 government and citizen participation and analyzing the purposes and
4 organization of government and laws.

5 (7) A curriculum guide shall be developed that will help
6 teachers and students maximize the learning of key issues in
7 civics, and shall include strategies for helping students develop
8 voters' guide information for ballot issues and candidates who
9 appear on the ballot. This guide should incorporate ideas from
10 other Washington state civics education programs, such as "We the
11 People" and "Project Citizen." The guide should also present ideas
12 for sharing the results of an election with the larger community
13 and with local government officials in productive, meaningful ways.

14 (8) As part of the pilot project, high school students in
15 participating counties shall be selected who will have supervised
16 access to the county's election reporting web site to assist the
17 county in managing its internet election reporting system. School
18 districts in participating counties shall select students to
19 participate in this aspect of the pilot project. Counties shall
20 provide technical assistance and elections expertise to
21 participating schools, either through existing staff resources or
22 through a county-chosen vendor.

23 (9) In addition to the required components of the pilot project
24 under this section, other activities may be included in the
25 project, such as:

26 (a) Conducting mock county elections at schools;

27 (b) Using a school version of the county's reporting and
28 election system to conduct school elections, including, where
29 possible, having school election results posted on the county's
30 election web site; and

31 (c) Preparing an advisory issue on which the school or local
32 community would vote, including issue preparation, conducting the
33 election, and preparing a presentation to a local government
34 official on the results of the advisory issue.

35 (10) The pilot project shall operate for the 2006-07 and
36 2007-08 school years.

37 (11) Funds for the pilot project shall be made available to the
38 office of the superintendent of public instruction for a contract
39 position in civics curriculum and for support costs for soliciting

1 and implementing volunteer participation.

2 (12) The office of the superintendent of public instruction
3 shall adopt rules to implement this section, including rules
4 specifying selection criteria for counties that wish to participate.

5 (13) The superintendent of public instruction shall provide an
6 interim report to appropriate committees of the legislature by
7 December 1, 2008, and a final report by December 1, 2009, detailing
8 the results of the project and budget recommendations for
9 expansion, if appropriate.

10 (14) This section expires January 31, 2010.

11 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. The office of the secretary of state shall
12 enter into an interlocal agreement under chapter 39.34 RCW with the
13 office of the superintendent of public instruction in which the
14 office of the secretary of state shall pay the office of the
15 superintendent of public instruction a minimum of two hundred forty
16 thousand dollars, representing funds received by the office of the
17 secretary of state under the federal help America vote act, for the
18 purpose of curriculum development by the office of the
19 superintendent of public instruction under this section. Payment
20 under this section shall be made no later than July 1, 2006. Funds
21 under this section shall be used for an eighteen-month contract
22 position at the office of the superintendent of public instruction,
23 including seminars and follow-up costs.

24 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. (1) The sum of two hundred thousand
25 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated
26 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, from the general fund to
27 the office of the state auditor for the purposes of this act.

28 (2) The sum of two hundred thousand dollars, or as much thereof
29 as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending
30 June 30, 2008, from the general fund to the office of the state
31 auditor for the purposes of this act.

32 (3) The appropriations in this section shall be made available
33 by the auditor's office directly to participating counties for
34 internet requirements by December 31, 2008. Funding is for the
35 purpose of supporting the prototype project. Counties may use funds
36 for in-house development, vendor agreements, or to support existing
37 services. Funding priority shall be given to counties in which

- 1 technology and budgeting constraints would make participating in
- 2 the pilot project a funding liability."

- 3 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Replaces all provisions of the original bill with a requirement that SPI create a pilot project with up to 15 county auditors. The pilot project is an interactive high school civics curriculum where selected students in participating counties assist the county in managing its internet election reporting system. \$400,000 is appropriated from the state general fund, plus \$240,000 from federal funds under the Help America Vote Act to support the project.