CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5376**

Chapter 222, Laws of 2022

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

OFFICE OF THE EDUCATION OMBUDS—AWARENESS

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 9, 2022

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| Passed by the Senate March 7, 2022  Yeas 47 Nays 1  DENNY HECK  **President of the Senate**  Passed by the House February 26, 2022  Yeas 94 Nays 1  LAURIE JINKINS  **Speaker of the House of Representatives** | CERTIFICATE  I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5376** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.  SARAH BANNISTER  Secretary |
| Approved March 30, 2022 2:40 PM | March 31, 2022 |
| JAY INSLEE  **Governor of the State of Washington** | **Secretary of State**  **State of Washington** |

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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5376**

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AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2022 Regular Session

**State of Washington 67th Legislature 2021 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Wilson, C., Wellman, Conway, Das, Hunt, Kuderer, Liias, Nobles, and Saldaña)

AN ACT Relating to promoting awareness of the governor's office of the education ombuds; adding a new section to chapter 28A.600 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.190 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.710 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.715 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  (1) The legislature recognizes that the office of the education ombuds within the office of the governor was established by the legislature in 2006 to reduce educational opportunity gaps by supporting families, students, educators, and communities in understanding the K-12 school system and resolving concerns collaboratively. The legislature recognizes that it placed the education ombuds within the office of the governor to ensure independence and impartiality.

(2) The legislature further recognizes that the education ombuds provides services including:

(a) Informing students, parents or guardians, employees, and members of the public about the state's public elementary and secondary education system;

(b) Identifying obstacles and recommending strategies to help students and community members to participate effectively in schools;

(c) Identifying and recommending strategies for improving student success;

(d) Referring individuals and families to appropriate resources, agencies, or departments;

(e) Facilitating the resolution of informal complaints made by parents and students with regard to the state's public elementary and secondary education system; and

(f) Serving as the lead agency to provide resources and tools to parents and families about public school antiharassment policies and strategies.

(3) The legislature intends for public schools to annually notify parents or guardians, students, and school employees about these services.

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

(1) Beginning August 1, 2023, public schools must:

(a) Provide students and their parents or guardians with a description of the services available through the office of the education ombuds and the contact information for the office of the education ombuds at the time of initial enrollment or admission; and

(b) Either: (i) Include on their website a description of the services available through the office of the education ombuds and a link to the website of the office of the education ombuds; or (ii) provide a description of the services available through the office of the education ombuds and the contact information for the office of the education ombuds in existing materials that are shared annually with families, students, and school employees, such as welcome packets, orientation guides, and newsletters.

(2) Public schools are encouraged to comply with both subsection (1)(b)(i) and (ii) of this section.

(3) By July 1, 2022, the office of the education ombuds must develop a template of the information described in subsection (1) of this section. The template must be translated into Spanish and into other languages as resources allow. The template must be made available upon request and updated as needed.

(4) For the purposes of this section, "public schools" has the same meaning as in RCW 28A.150.010.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 28A.190 RCW to read as follows:

Institutional education providers must comply with the requirements in section 2(1) of this act, related to provision of information about the office of the education ombuds.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 28A.710 RCW to read as follows:

Section 2 (1) and (2) of this act, related to provision of information about the office of the education ombuds, governs school operation and management under RCW 28A.710.040 and apply to charter schools established under this chapter.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 28A.715 RCW to read as follows:

Section 2 (1) and (2) of this act, related to provision of information about the office of the education ombuds, governs school operation and management under RCW 28A.715.020 and apply to state-tribal education compact schools established under this chapter.

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Passed by the Senate March 7, 2022.

Passed by the House February 26, 2022.

Approved by the Governor March 30, 2022.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 31, 2022.