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SENATE BILL 5836

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State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session

By Senators Rinehart and Bailey.

Read first time February 25, 1991. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to education; adding new sections to chapter  
2 28A.230 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    (1) The legislature finds that the common  
5 schools of the state perform an integral role in helping students  
6 acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to become productive and  
7 socially responsible citizens.

8            (2) The legislature further finds that as a result of the process  
9 of education, students should be able to possess and apply the  
10 knowledge, understanding, and skills needed for full and effective  
11 participation in a democratic society, including development of an  
12 awareness of and concern for the rights and well-being of others. The  
13 process of education should also expose students to the concept and  
14 importance of community service and instruct them in methods to resolve  
15 disputes and solve problems.

1 (3) The legislature declares that school districts should examine  
2 their curricular programs for citizenship education, dispute  
3 resolution, and problem solving content.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Every school district board of directors  
5 shall adopt a written policy on citizenship education. The policy  
6 shall address the extent to which the curriculum and activities of the  
7 district enable students to possess and apply the knowledge,  
8 understanding, and skills needed for effective participation in a  
9 democratic society and in a pluralistic, interdependent world. Such  
10 curriculum and activities may include, but are not limited to the  
11 following:

12 (1) Academic disciplines such as, including but not limited to:  
13 History, including the social significance of state and national  
14 holidays; geography, social studies, including sociology and the role  
15 of the media in society; and political science, including civics and  
16 the study of the United States and Washington state Constitutions  
17 required under RCW 28A.230.170;

18 (2) Character education, including instruction about: The concepts  
19 of courage, including conviction of thoughts and action; honesty,  
20 honor, and justice; freedom of speech and tolerance of divergent  
21 viewpoints; self-discipline and personal industry; generosity,  
22 helpfulness, and compassion; and freedom of choice balanced by  
23 responsibility;

24 (3) Societal education, including instruction about: Contemporary  
25 social problems and issues; consumer and economic education; law-  
26 related education; and international or multicultural/multi-ethnic  
27 education;

28 (4) Experiential education, including but not limited to:  
29 Community service; volunteerism; leadership training; participation in

1 governmental processes such as voting or voter registration;  
2 participation in foreign exchange programs; and cocurricular service  
3 activities; and

4 (5) Dispute and conflict resolution, including but not limited to:

5 (a) Improving dispute and conflict resolution skills and  
6 encouraging creative problem solving;

7 (b) Providing information about other cultures and the roots and  
8 nature of conflict between cultures;

9 (c) Communicating insight into how attitudes are formed and  
10 decisions are made;

11 (d) Providing students with models of citizen involvement in  
12 democratic processes and international affairs;

13 (e) Presenting to students, as is appropriate to their ages, a  
14 balanced discussion of the following topics:

15 (i) The history of the arms race;

16 (ii) The national and international policy perspectives on the  
17 development of weapons and the nature of armed conflict; and

18 (iii) The applicability of conflict resolution skills to  
19 international affairs.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) In adopting the policy pursuant to  
21 section 2 of this act, districts may and are encouraged to conduct a  
22 review to assess the extent to which the district's instructional  
23 materials and curriculum program include citizenship education.

24 (2) In conducting any such curriculum review, a district may: (a)  
25 Use a citizenship education advisory committee established for the  
26 specific purpose of conducting the review, which committee shall  
27 include members representing students, teachers, administrators,  
28 parents, the school board, local government, and the community; (b) use  
29 its instructional materials committee established under RCW

1 28A.320.230: PROVIDED, That the district shall provide an opportunity  
2 for students, parents, local government officials, and business and  
3 labor representatives to participate in any meetings or hearings held  
4 by the instructional materials committee; (c) conduct the review as  
5 part of any annual goal-setting process the district has established  
6 pursuant to RCW 28A.320.220; or (d) conduct the review as part of the  
7 self-study provisions under RCW 28A.320.200.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The office of the superintendent of public  
9 instruction shall develop guidelines and a model curriculum for  
10 citizenship education, and by June 30, 1992, provide information about  
11 the model curriculum to local school districts through the educational  
12 service districts. School districts shall be encouraged to evaluate  
13 the curriculum, adopt or modify the curriculum, and implement the  
14 curriculum. The office of the superintendent of public instruction may  
15 field test the model curriculum.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** In complying with the requirements of  
17 sections 2 and 4 of this act, the office of the superintendent of  
18 public instruction shall consult and seek advice from representatives  
19 of at least the following:

- 20 (1) Higher education;
- 21 (2) School district boards of directors;
- 22 (3) School superintendents;
- 23 (4) School administrators;
- 24 (5) Classroom teachers at both elementary and secondary levels;
- 25 (6) School counselors;
- 26 (7) Curriculum development organizations; and
- 27 (8) Students.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**    Sections 2 through 5 of this act are each  
2 added to chapter 28A.230 RCW.