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HOUSE BILL 2283

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State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Representative B. Thomas

Read first time 01/12/94. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to certificates of mastery; and reenacting and  
2 amending RCW 28A.630.885.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.630.885 and 1993 c 336 s 202 and 1993 c 334 s 1  
5 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

6 (1) The Washington commission on student learning is hereby  
7 established. The primary purposes of the commission are to identify  
8 the knowledge and skills all public school students need to know and be  
9 able to do based on the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210, to  
10 develop student assessment and school accountability systems, and to  
11 take other steps necessary to develop a performance-based education  
12 system. The commission shall include three members of the state board  
13 of education, three members appointed by the governor before July 1,  
14 1992, and five members appointed no later than June 1, 1993, by the  
15 governor elected in the November 1992 election. The governor shall  
16 appoint a chair from the commission members, and fill any vacancies in  
17 gubernatorial appointments that may occur. The state board of  
18 education shall fill any vacancies of state board of education  
19 appointments that may occur. In making the appointments, educators,

1 business leaders, and parents shall be represented, and nominations  
2 from state-wide education, business, and parent organizations shall be  
3 requested. Efforts shall be made to ensure that the commission  
4 reflects the racial and ethnic diversity of the state's K-12 student  
5 population and that the major geographic regions in the state are  
6 represented. Appointees shall be qualified individuals who are  
7 supportive of educational restructuring, who have a positive record of  
8 service, and who will devote sufficient time to the responsibilities of  
9 the commission to ensure that the objectives of the commission are  
10 achieved.

11 (2) The commission shall establish advisory committees. Membership  
12 of the advisory committees shall include, but not necessarily be  
13 limited to, professionals from the office of the superintendent of  
14 public instruction and the state board of education, and other state  
15 and local educational practitioners and student assessment specialists.

16 (3) The commission, with the assistance of the advisory committees,  
17 shall:

18 (a) Develop essential academic learning requirements based on the  
19 student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210. Essential academic learning  
20 requirements shall be developed, to the extent possible, for each of  
21 the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210. Goals one and two shall  
22 be considered primary. Essential academic learning requirements for  
23 RCW 28A.150.210(1), goal one, and the mathematics component of RCW  
24 28A.150.210(2), goal two, shall be completed no later than March 1,  
25 1995. Essential academic learning requirements that incorporate the  
26 remainder of RCW 28A.150.210 (2), (3), and (4), goals two, three, and  
27 four, shall be completed no later than March 1, 1996. To the maximum  
28 extent possible, the commission shall integrate goal four and the  
29 knowledge and skill areas in the other goals in the development of the  
30 essential academic learning requirements;

31 (b)(i) The commission shall present to the state board of education  
32 and superintendent of public instruction a state-wide academic  
33 assessment system for use in the elementary, middle, and high school  
34 years designed to determine if each student has mastered the essential  
35 academic learning requirements identified in (a) of this subsection.  
36 The academic assessment system shall include a variety of assessment  
37 methods, including performance-based measures that are criterion-  
38 referenced. Performance standards for determining if a student has  
39 successfully completed an assessment shall be initially determined by

1 the commission in consultation with the advisory committees required in  
2 subsection (2) of this section.

3 (ii) The assessment system shall be designed so that the results  
4 under the assessment system are used by educators as tools to evaluate  
5 instructional practices, and to initiate appropriate educational  
6 support for students who have not mastered the essential academic  
7 learning requirements at the appropriate periods in the student's  
8 educational development.

9 (iii) Assessments measuring the essential academic learning  
10 requirements developed for RCW 28A.150.210(1), goal one, and the  
11 mathematics component of RCW 28A.150.210(2), goal two, shall be  
12 initially implemented by the state board of education and  
13 superintendent of public instruction no later than the 1996-97 school  
14 year, unless the legislature takes action to delay or prevent  
15 implementation of the assessment system and essential academic learning  
16 requirements. Assessments measuring the essential academic learning  
17 requirements developed for RCW 28A.150.210 (2), (3), and (4), goals  
18 two, three, and four, shall be initially implemented by the state board  
19 of education and superintendent of public instruction no later than the  
20 1997-98 school year, unless the legislature takes action to delay or  
21 prevent implementation of the assessment system and essential academic  
22 learning requirements. To the maximum extent possible, the commission  
23 shall integrate knowledge and skill areas in development of the  
24 assessments.

25 (iv) Before the 2000-2001 school year, participation by school  
26 districts in the assessment system shall be optional. School districts  
27 that desire to participate before the 2000-2001 school year shall  
28 notify the superintendent of public instruction in a manner determined  
29 by the superintendent. Beginning in the 2000-2001 school year, all  
30 school districts shall be required to participate in the assessment  
31 system.

32 (v) The state board of education and superintendent of public  
33 instruction may modify the essential academic learning requirements and  
34 academic assessment system, as needed, in subsequent school years.

35 (vi) The commission shall develop assessments that are directly  
36 related to the essential academic learning requirements, and are not  
37 biased toward persons with different learning styles, racial or ethnic  
38 backgrounds, or on the basis of gender;

1 (c) After a determination is made by the state board of education  
2 that the high school assessment system has been implemented and that it  
3 is sufficiently reliable and valid, successful completion of the high  
4 school assessment shall lead to a certificate of mastery that will  
5 indicate each student's level of mastery of each of the essential  
6 academic learning requirements. The certificate of mastery shall be  
7 obtained by most students at about the age of sixteen, and is evidence  
8 (~~that the student has successfully mastered the essential academic~~  
9 ~~learning requirements~~) of the level of mastery obtained by each  
10 student during his or her educational career. (~~The certificate~~) The  
11 commission shall make recommendations to the state board of education  
12 on the level or levels of mastery (~~shall be~~) required for graduation  
13 but the level or levels shall not be the only requirement for  
14 graduation. The highest level of mastery shall be indicated on each  
15 certificate of graduation and transcript issued after the 2000-01  
16 school year. The commission shall make recommendations to the state  
17 board of education regarding the relationship between the certificate  
18 of mastery and high school graduation requirements. Upon achieving the  
19 certificate of mastery, schools shall provide students with the  
20 opportunity to continue to pursue career and educational objectives  
21 through educational pathways that emphasize integration of academic and  
22 vocational education. Educational pathways may include, but are not  
23 limited to, programs such as work-based learning, school-to-work  
24 transition, tech prep, vocational-technical education, running start,  
25 and preparation for technical college, community college, or university  
26 education;

27 (d) Consider methods to address the unique needs of special  
28 education students when developing the assessments in (b) and (c) of  
29 this subsection;

30 (e) Consider methods to address the unique needs of highly capable  
31 students when developing the assessments in (b) and (c) of this  
32 subsection;

33 (f) Develop recommendations on the time, support, and resources,  
34 including technical assistance, needed by schools and school districts  
35 to help students achieve the essential academic learning requirements.  
36 These recommendations shall include an estimate for the legislature,  
37 superintendent of public instruction, and governor on the expected cost  
38 of implementing the academic assessment system;

1 (g) Develop recommendations for consideration by the higher  
2 education coordinating board for adopting college and university  
3 entrance requirements for public school students that are consistent  
4 with the essential academic learning requirements and the certificate  
5 of mastery;

6 (h) By December 1, 1998, recommend to the legislature, governor,  
7 state board of education, and superintendent of public instruction:

8 (i) A state-wide accountability system to monitor and evaluate  
9 accurately and fairly the level of learning occurring in individual  
10 schools and school districts. The accountability system shall be  
11 designed to recognize the characteristics of the student population of  
12 schools and school districts such as gender, race, ethnicity,  
13 socioeconomic status, and other factors. The system shall include  
14 school-site, school district, and state-level accountability reports;

15 (ii) A school assistance program to help schools and school  
16 districts that are having difficulty helping students meet the  
17 essential academic learning requirements;

18 (iii) A system to intervene in schools and school districts in  
19 which significant numbers of students persistently fail to learn the  
20 essential academic learning requirements; and

21 (iv) An awards program to provide incentives to school staff to  
22 help their students learn the essential academic learning requirements,  
23 with each school being assessed individually against its own baseline.  
24 Incentives shall be based on the rate of percentage change of students  
25 achieving the essential academic learning requirements. School staff  
26 shall determine how the awards will be spent.

27 It is the intent of the legislature to begin implementation of  
28 programs in this subsection (3)(h) on September 1, 2000;

29 (i) Report annually by December 1st to the legislature, the  
30 governor, the superintendent of public instruction, and the state board  
31 of education on the progress, findings, and recommendations of the  
32 commission; and

33 (j) Make recommendations to the legislature and take other actions  
34 necessary or desirable to help students meet the student learning  
35 goals.

36 (4) The commission shall coordinate its activities with the state  
37 board of education and the office of the superintendent of public  
38 instruction.

1 (5) The commission shall seek advice broadly from the public and  
2 all interested educational organizations in the conduct of its work,  
3 including holding periodic regional public hearings.

4 (6) The commission shall select an entity to provide staff support  
5 and the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
6 provide administrative oversight and be the fiscal agent for the  
7 commission. The commission may direct the office of the superintendent  
8 of public instruction to enter into subcontracts, within the  
9 commission's resources, with school districts, teachers, higher  
10 education faculty, state agencies, business organizations, and other  
11 individuals and organizations to assist the commission in its  
12 deliberations.

13 (7) Members of the commission shall be reimbursed for travel  
14 expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

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