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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5402**

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**State of Washington**

**53rd Legislature**

**1993 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Senators Jesernig, Sellar, Bauer and Hochstatter)

Read first time 02/17/93.

1 AN ACT Relating to literacy in mathematics, science, and  
2 technology; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds:

5 (a) Mathematics, science, and technology subtly but profoundly  
6 impact the lives of Washington state residents. In the coming years  
7 mathematics, science, and technology will become socially pervasive and  
8 important with growing concerns about health, environmental protection,  
9 conservation, energy supply, and industrial growth;

10 (b) There is consensus that the most likely leading industries in  
11 the twenty-first century will be in microelectronics, biotechnology,  
12 new materials industries, civilian aviation, telecommunications,  
13 robotics, and computer-related technologies. This means that literacy  
14 in mathematics, science, and technology will become increasingly  
15 important to the economic future of Washington state; and

16 (c) National education goal number four establishes that by the  
17 year 2000, United States students will be first in the world in science  
18 and mathematics achievement.

1 (2) The legislature recognizes that change is not optional and  
2 believes that only if literacy in mathematics, science, and technology  
3 is expanded to include all segments of the population can Washington  
4 state build upon existing public and private sector resources to take  
5 full advantage of the projected leading industries for the twenty-first  
6 century and achieve national education goal number four.

7 (3) It is the intent of the legislature to develop a long-range,  
8 comprehensive mathematics, science, and technology literacy program  
9 that reaches into all segments of society and supports a vision in  
10 which Washington state is a place where all citizens demonstrate,  
11 value, and support literacy in mathematics, science, and technology.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The Washington state institute for public  
13 policy shall conduct a study that includes, in priority order, but is  
14 not limited to:

15 (1) A review of existing or anticipated efforts in Washington state  
16 pertaining to enhancing the quality of mathematics, science, and  
17 technology instruction in the common schools and higher education  
18 institutions of the state. This review shall include development of  
19 recommendations to the legislature, the superintendent of public  
20 instruction, the state board of education, and the higher education  
21 coordinating board on requiring or otherwise assuring that the  
22 curriculum of the common schools and the programs leading to teacher  
23 certification include instruction in mathematics, science, and  
24 technology in a manner that increases literacy in these subjects;

25 (2) An analysis of the benefits and disadvantages to the state of  
26 achieving or not achieving broad social literacy in mathematics,  
27 science, and technology;

28 (3) An analysis of the feasibility and desirability of creating a  
29 Washington state institute for science and technology that would  
30 promote broad-based awareness and understanding of the importance of  
31 mathematics, science, and technology in our lives and support the  
32 implementation of a long-range, comprehensive mathematics, science, and  
33 technology literacy program;

34 (4) The analysis under subsection (3) of this section shall  
35 include:

36 (a) An assessment of whether a state institute for science and  
37 technology is an appropriate means toward building and sustaining a

1 social culture of awareness, appreciation, understanding, and support  
2 for mathematics, science, and technology education and literacy;

3 (b) An assessment of the kind of mission and focus that would guide  
4 a state institute for science and technology, including groups for  
5 priority attention and appropriate programs, services, and activities;

6 (c) Options pertaining to a governmental structure for and location  
7 of a state institute for science and technology including options for  
8 having an existing agency or institution carry out the identified  
9 purposes of such institute; and

10 (d) Options for funding a state institute for science and  
11 technology.

12 (5) The study shall include an analysis of the feasibility and  
13 desirability of:

14 (a) Creating a science academy as part of or complementary to the  
15 establishment of a state institute for science and technology; and

16 (b) Creating as part of or complementary to the establishment of a  
17 state institute for science and technology a state office of technology  
18 assessment to respond to requests from state agencies, the legislature,  
19 or K-12 and higher education professionals with accurate, up-to-date,  
20 understandable information relative to current issues involving  
21 mathematics, science, and technology.

22 (6) The institute for public policy shall submit a report of its  
23 findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the legislature and the  
24 governor not later than December 1, 1994.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The Washington state institute for public  
26 policy may receive, and is encouraged to solicit, donations of funds  
27 from private and governmental sources to help defray the cost of  
28 performing the study required by section 2 of this act.

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