
SENATE BILL 5402

State of Washington 53rd Legislature 1993 Regular Session

By Senators Jesernig, Sellar, Bauer and Hochstatter

Read first time 01/27/93. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

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

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 society that would promote
30 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 society is an appropriate means toward building and sustaining a social

1 culture of awareness, appreciation, understanding, and support for
2 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 society, 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 society 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 society.

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

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

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

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

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of sixty thousand dollars, or as
25 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium
26 ending June 30, 1995, from the state general fund to the Washington
27 state institute for public policy to conduct the study under section 2
28 of this act.

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