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SENATE BILL 6191

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State of Washington                      53rd Legislature                      1994 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Erwin, M. Rasmussen, Bauer and Winsley

Read first time 01/17/94. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to violence prevention for safe schools; adding new  
2 sections to chapter 28A.300 RCW; 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 there is an  
5 increase in violence, the use of weapons, and substance abuse in our  
6 communities and that students are faced with these issues in their  
7 personal life, at school, and in the community. As students are faced  
8 with the effects of violence, substance abuse, and the  
9 interrelationship of these factors, it is essential that we take the  
10 steps necessary to provide safe schools and communities for our  
11 children.

12            (2) The legislature further finds that students, staff, parents,  
13 and the community must be provided the skills and resources necessary  
14 to design and implement a comprehensive safe school strategy that  
15 includes violence prevention activities such as supporting conflict  
16 resolution, anger management, peer mediation, reducing illegal gang  
17 activity, substance abuse prevention, and elimination of racism, hate  
18 crimes, and sexual harassment, in coordination with families and the  
19 community.

1 (3) The purpose of sections 2 through 7 of this act is to create a  
2 cost-effective program that will provide school districts, in  
3 coordination with communities, the knowledge, skills, and materials  
4 necessary to design their own programs to implement a comprehensive  
5 safe schools strategy.

6 (4) The legislature further finds that it is essential to support  
7 the development of a training program on the roots of violence and  
8 importance of conflict resolution skills, and their relationship to a  
9 safe and supportive school environment for future teachers in teacher  
10 preparation programs.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The office of the superintendent of  
12 public instruction shall award, through a competitive grant process,  
13 moneys to school districts for the development and implementation of a  
14 comprehensive safe schools program.

15 (2) School districts awarded the grants shall agree to create a  
16 safe schools team composed of an administrator, a teacher, a parent, a  
17 classified staff member, a student, and community members including the  
18 county prevention coordinator through the division of alcohol and  
19 substance abuse, and a representative of the community mobilization  
20 against substance abuse coalition or its designee.

21 (3) The safe schools team shall participate in a state-wide  
22 technical assistance workshop for the development of a safe schools  
23 program that links schools and communities in the development and  
24 implementation of comprehensive prevention strategy.

25 (4) The program developed by the safe schools team of the school  
26 districts awarded the grants shall: Identify local risk factors,  
27 develop corresponding protective factors, assess existing gaps in  
28 current school district policies, programs, and procedures, and  
29 determine how to eliminate the gaps and foster safe, disciplined, drug-  
30 free schools. The program may target specific violence-prevention  
31 strategies such as conflict resolution, anger management, peer  
32 mediation, techniques for the development of empathy, active listening  
33 and effective communication, awareness and appreciation of differences,  
34 problem solving and decision-making strategies, personal safety, safety  
35 issues concerning firearms and other dangerous weapons, sexual  
36 harassment, illegal gang activity, prevention of tobacco, alcohol and  
37 other drug abuse, and self-esteem enhancement. The strategies selected  
38 shall be closely tied to the risk assessment and an increase in the

1 protective factors within the school and community, and implementation  
2 and evaluation of the programs in each building of the participating  
3 school district.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The office of the superintendent of  
5 public instruction shall award, through a competitive process, moneys  
6 to a teacher preparation program in an institution of higher education  
7 for the development and implementation of a model conflict resolution  
8 training program to be used in teacher preparation programs. The  
9 elements of the training program shall include, but not be limited to:  
10 Manifestations of violence, bullying, and victimizations, sexual  
11 harassment, racism, bias and hate crimes, youth gangs, anger  
12 management, peer mediation, alcohol and drug prevention, and self-care  
13 for the educator.

14 (2) The institution of higher education awarded funds under this  
15 section shall report to the superintendent of public instruction and  
16 the state board of education annually until December 1, 1997, on the  
17 development and implementation of the conflict resolution training  
18 program.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** In awarding the grants, the office of the  
20 superintendent of public instruction shall consult with the Washington  
21 state safe schools advisory committee.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) School districts participating in a  
23 program under section 2 or 3 of this act shall report annually to the  
24 superintendent of public instruction for a period of three years after  
25 receiving grant money the following information: (a) Steps completed  
26 toward implementation of the district's safe schools program, including  
27 numbers of buildings participating; (b) a survey of personnel and  
28 students on the climate of the school; (c) data on weapons and other  
29 incidence of violence on campus; and (d) a survey of parent and  
30 community perceptions on the school climate.

31 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall contract with an  
32 outside evaluator to assess the effectiveness of the safe schools  
33 program.

34 (3) The superintendent of public instruction shall report to the  
35 house of representatives and senate education committees on the results

1 of the programs of the participating school districts no later than  
2 January 15, 1998.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Grant funds shall be used solely for the  
4 following purposes: (1) By the office of the superintendent of public  
5 instruction for state-wide technical assistance for safe schools teams  
6 receiving funds under this grant award, administration of the program,  
7 the evaluation of the effectiveness of the programs and dissemination  
8 of the information; (2) for school districts for cost of the  
9 participation of the safe schools team and implementation of the  
10 program; and (3) for institutions of higher education for the  
11 development and implementation of a model teacher preparation training  
12 program in conflict resolution.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The superintendent of public instruction  
14 shall adopt rules as necessary under chapter 34.05 RCW to implement  
15 sections 2 through 5 of this act.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 2 through 6 of this act are each  
17 added to chapter 28A.300 RCW.

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