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SENATE BILL 5413

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Rasmussen, Benton, Winsley, Bauer, Kohl-Welles and Haugen; by request of Board of Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction and Governor Locke

Read first time 01/21/1999. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to teacher assessment for certification; adding new  
2 sections to chapter 28A.410 RCW; creating a new section; and repealing  
3 RCW 28A.410.020.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds and declares:

6 (1) Washington has a strong and continually improving system of  
7 teacher preparation and certification;

8 (2) Incorporating teacher assessment for certification into the  
9 system will contribute both to public confidence and to maintaining an  
10 already high quality system of teacher preparation and certification in  
11 Washington;

12 (3) Teacher assessment for certification can guard against  
13 admission to the teaching profession of persons who have not  
14 demonstrated that they are competent in the basic skills of reading,  
15 writing, communications, and math; knowledgeable about the skills  
16 required to teach; and knowledgeable in the subjects they will be  
17 assigned to teach;

18 (4) Teacher assessment for certification should be implemented as  
19 a complementary element to the existing system of teacher preparation

1 and certification and add value to the candidate's professional growth  
2 journey; and

3 (5) Incorporating teacher assessment for certification should be  
4 done in a manner that is aligned with the direction of the improvement  
5 of student achievement act of 1993, chapter 336, Laws of 1993.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.410  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1)(a) Beginning not later than September 1, 2000, the state board  
9 shall make available one or more means of assessing an applicant's  
10 knowledge in the subjects of reading, writing, communications, and  
11 mathematics as determined by the state board. Beginning August 1,  
12 2001, passing this assessment shall be required for admission to state  
13 board of education-approved teacher preparation programs and for out-  
14 of-state applicants for a Washington residency teaching certificate.

15 (b) State board of education-approved teacher preparation programs  
16 may, on an individual student basis, admit into their programs a  
17 candidate who has not achieved the minimum assessment score established  
18 by the state board. Individuals so admitted cannot receive residency  
19 certification without passing the basic skills assessment under this  
20 section.

21 (2) Beginning not later than September 1, 2001, the state board  
22 shall make available one or more means of assessing an applicant's  
23 knowledge of teaching as determined by the state board. For purposes  
24 of this assessment, "knowledge of teaching" means the knowledge of  
25 teaching skills and theory that is supported by research as necessary  
26 to be an effective teacher, which is not subject specific, and which  
27 includes skills in classroom management and discipline, organization  
28 and delivery of lessons, assessment strategies, and working and  
29 communicating with parents. Beginning May 1, 2002, passing this  
30 assessment shall be required to receive a residency certificate.

31 (3) Beginning not later than September 1, 2001, the state board  
32 shall provide for the initial implementation of one or more means of  
33 assessing an applicant's knowledge in the subjects for which the  
34 applicant has applied for an endorsement. The assessment of subject  
35 knowledge shall not include instructional methodology. Beginning May  
36 1, 2002, passing this assessment for the applicable endorsements shall  
37 be required to receive a residency certificate.

1 (4) On each of the assessments under subsections (1), (2), and (3)  
2 of this section, an applicant shall be required to achieve at least the  
3 minimum assessment score or scores established by the state board as a  
4 condition to being admitted into a Washington teacher preparation  
5 program and being issued a residency teaching certificate.

6 (5) The state board of education and superintendent of public  
7 instruction, as determined by the state board, may contract with one or  
8 more third parties for:

9 (a) The development, purchase, administration, scoring, and  
10 reporting of scores of the assessments established by the state board  
11 under this section;

12 (b) Related clerical and administrative activities; or

13 (c) Any combination of the purposes in this subsection.

14 (6) Unless funds are appropriated for the costs associated with any  
15 of the assessments under this section, applicants for admission to a  
16 Washington teacher preparation program and applicants for residency  
17 teaching certificates shall pay fees established by the state board of  
18 education for initial assessments, reassessments, scoring of  
19 assessments, reporting of assessment scores, and clerical and  
20 administrative activities related thereto. Such fees shall be  
21 reasonably related to the direct and indirect costs of the state board  
22 and superintendent of public instruction in implementing this section,  
23 including contractual costs.

24 (7) Fee revenues received by the state board and superintendent of  
25 public instruction under this section shall be deposited in the teacher  
26 assessment account hereby created in the custody of the state  
27 treasurer. Moneys deposited in the account shall be expended  
28 exclusively for the direct and indirect costs of implementing this  
29 section. Only the superintendent of public instruction or the  
30 superintendent's designee may authorize expenditures from the account.  
31 The account is subject to the allotment procedures under chapter 43.88  
32 RCW, but no appropriation is required for disbursement.

33 (8) The superintendent of public instruction is responsible for  
34 supervision and providing support services to administer this section.

35 (9) The state board of education shall collaboratively develop and  
36 implement the assessments required under this section with the  
37 superintendent of public instruction. The state board also shall  
38 ensure that at a minimum, teachers, administrators, and representatives

1 of institutions of higher education participate in the development of  
2 the assessments.

3 (10) The state board shall adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW that  
4 the board determines are reasonably necessary for the effective and  
5 efficient implementation of this section. The board may adopt rules  
6 allowing exceptions from taking any of the assessments under this  
7 section on a case-by-case basis.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.410  
9 RCW to read as follows:

10 By December 1, 2001, and annually thereafter, the state board of  
11 education shall prepare a report on the number and percentage of  
12 candidates who are successful in passing the assessments required under  
13 section 2 of this act. The information shall be reported for the  
14 individual public and private colleges and universities in Washington  
15 as well as reported on an aggregate basis. The report shall also  
16 include results disaggregated demographically. The report shall be  
17 made available through the state library and over the internet and  
18 placed on the legislative alert list.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.410.020 and 1996 c 309 s 1, 1991 c  
20 116 s 20, 1988 c 251 s 4, & 1987 c 525 s 202, as now or hereafter  
21 amended, are each repealed, effective September 1, 2001.

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