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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5634**

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**State of Washington**

**56th Legislature**

**1999 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Senators Finkbeiner, Zarelli, Hale, Oke, Deccio, Johnson, Hochstatter, Rossi, McDonald, Horn, Swecker and West)

Read first time 03/03/1999.

1 AN ACT Relating to the retention and promotion of students; and  
2 adding a new section to chapter 28A.320 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The legislature finds that it is critical for the success of  
7 the public school system and for the greatest achievement of each  
8 individual pupil that all educators hold, and act upon, high  
9 expectations for the academic achievement of every student. The  
10 state's education reforms emphasize higher standards and performance,  
11 not just "seat time" in school. No child should graduate from high  
12 school with a diploma if the student is unable to read. Promoting  
13 student from grade to grade without demonstrating appropriate  
14 competencies does no service to our children.

15 (2) Beginning with the 1999-2000 school year, all school boards  
16 shall adopt a policy, or amend any existing local policy, regarding  
17 promotion and retention of pupils.

18 (3) The district policy shall be adopted at a public meeting of the  
19 school board and shall:

1 (a) Provide for parental notification when a pupil is identified as  
2 being at risk of retention. This notice shall be provided as early in  
3 the school year, and as early in their school careers, as practicable.  
4 The policy shall provide a pupil's parent or guardian the opportunity  
5 to consult with the teacher or teachers responsible for the decision to  
6 promote or retain the pupil; and

7 (b) Indicate the manner in which opportunities for remedial  
8 instruction are available to pupils who are recommended for retention  
9 or who are identified as being at risk for retention.

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