

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## ESHB 1466

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Promoting natural science, wildlife, and environmental education.

**Sponsors:** By House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Quall, Tom, Haigh, Talcott, McDermott, Anderson, Linville, Rockefeller, Ericksen, Upthegrove, Jarrett, Dunshee, Nixon, Kessler, Ruderman, Eickmeyer, Cox, Lovick, Hunt, Grant, Woods, Wallace, Pflug, Kenney and Fromhold).

**House Committee on Education**  
**House Committee on Appropriations**  
**Senate Committee on Education**

### **Background:**

Various private entities such as Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium, the Pacific Science Center, the Washington Audubon Society, and Woodland Park Zoo have educational outreach programs available to schools. These programs are designed to help children learn about science, wildlife, or the environment. The programs support the development of materials for in-class curricula, field trips and out-of-school opportunities, and teacher training.

Under Washington law, all schools give instruction in science with special reference to the environment. In addition, the Washington Administrative Code requires that instruction about conservation, natural resources and the environment be provided in an interdisciplinary manner at all grade levels.

### **Summary:**

The Washington Natural Science, Wildlife, and Environmental Education Partnership Account (Account) is established. In addition, the Natural Science, Wildlife, and Environmental Education Grant Program (Grant Program) is created. The purpose of the Account and of the Grant Program is to promote proven and innovative natural science, wildlife, and environmental education programs that are fully aligned with the state's essential academic learning requirements (EALRs). The Account consists of funds provided by the Legislature or other sources. An appropriation is not required for an expenditure from the Account. The Grant Program is subject to the availability of funds in the Account.

Money from the Account is disbursed through a competitive grant-making process to

nonprofit organizations that are tax exempt and can provide matching funds or in-kind services. The criteria for the grants is established by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and any expenditures from the Account must be authorized by the OSPI or its designee.

The Grant Program may make disbursements to programs involving forestry and agriculture as well as the environment, wildlife and natural science. The criteria must be based on compliance with the EALRs and include instruction on renewable resources, responsible use of resources and conservation. Programs must use methods that encourage critical thinking and meet at least one of four additional listed features. The OSPI will involve a cross-section of stakeholder groups to develop socially, economically, and environmentally balanced funding criteria. A list of non-exclusive, eligible uses for the grants is included.

Grants may not be used for any partisan or political activities.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

House 77 19  
Senate 48 0

**Effective:** July 27, 2003