
HOUSE BILL 2777

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2004 Regular Session

By Representatives McDermott, Haigh and Schual-Berke

Read first time 01/20/2004. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to after-school programs; creating new sections;
2 and declaring an emergency.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that unsupervised
5 children, when left alone after school, have higher absentee rates at
6 school, lower academic test scores, and higher levels of stress, fear,
7 nightmares, loneliness, and boredom than children who are not left
8 alone after school. Children who are left alone also are more likely
9 to smoke cigarettes and use alcohol than their peers who are not left
10 alone. The legislature further finds that the rate of violent juvenile
11 crime soars in the hours immediately after school, and that children
12 are most likely to be victims of violent crimes committed by people
13 other than family members between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

14 The legislature finds that good after-school programs and
15 activities can provide safe and effective learning environments for
16 children who would otherwise be alone and unsupervised after school.
17 The legislature also finds that most Americans believe that children
18 should have access to organized activities after school and that many
19 of them would be willing to support those programs with their taxes.

1 The legislature further finds that students who participate in good
2 after-school care programs:

3 (1) Miss fewer days of school and have better behavior in school,
4 test scores, grades, and records of homework completion than children
5 who are left alone;

6 (2) Spend more time actively learning in a variety of settings and
7 less time watching television than their peers who are left alone; and

8 (3) Have better peer relations, emotional adjustment, and conflict
9 resolution skills than children who are left alone.

10 Therefore, the legislature intends to direct the office of the
11 superintendent of public instruction and the department of social and
12 health services to work with the Washington after-school network to
13 develop a statewide vision and strategic plan designed to ensure that
14 quality after-school programs are available to every school-aged child
15 in the state.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The superintendent of public instruction and
17 the department of social and health services, with assistance from and
18 in coordination with the Washington after-school network, shall:

19 (1) Assess the state of after-school programs available in the
20 state, including the number of children and youth served through those
21 programs and the numbers and locations of children and youth who do not
22 have access to such programs;

23 (2) Identify the funding sources supporting after-school programs;

24 (3) Study model after-school programs operating in the state and
25 nation and identify the components that make the programs effective;

26 (4) Develop a statewide vision and strategic plan to coordinate
27 after-school programs at the state and local levels and to ensure the
28 availability of programs for every school-aged child and youth in the
29 state. The plan shall include strategies that promote research-based
30 best practices and shall include input from children and youth; and

31 (5) Report to the governor, the house of representatives and senate
32 education committees, the house of representatives children and family
33 services committee, and the senate children and family services and
34 corrections committee by October 31, 2004, on the strategic plan and
35 any findings and recommendations included in the plan.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The superintendent of public instruction and
2 the department of social and health services may provide, by grant or
3 contract, funding to the Washington after-school network for the
4 purposes of section 2 of this act. The agencies may also seek and
5 expend funds from federal, state, and local governmental agencies and
6 private organizations for the purposes of section 2 of this act.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
8 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
9 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
10 immediately.

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