
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2814

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Upthegrove, Delvin, Quall, Linville, Wood, Ruderman, Schual-Berke, Chase, Santos and Kagi)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/04.

1 AN ACT Relating to civics education; adding a new section to
2 chapter 28A.600 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that students need to
5 know and understand the structure, workings, and roots of our state and
6 nation's democratic institutions and traditions. The legislature
7 further finds that studies on the historical and civics knowledge of
8 America's students suggest that too few students are learning those
9 lessons well. The United States department of education's national
10 assessment of education progress shows that fewer than twenty-five
11 percent of America's students are proficient in either history or
12 civics. In addition, while most of the states have learning standards
13 in the two subjects, only twelve states have enough depth and breadth
14 in the standards to ensure that students will understand their civic
15 responsibilities and opportunities once the students reach adulthood.
16 The legislature intends to help school districts improve instruction in
17 civics by providing professional development for teachers and by
18 creating an award program for students who demonstrate a strong

1 understanding of the state's civics standards and who exhibit
2 leadership in the civic life of their communities.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.600
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 The Daniel J. Evans civic education award is established to
6 recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of students who have
7 demonstrated a strong understanding of the civics essential learning
8 requirements. The students must demonstrate this understanding through
9 completion of at least one of the classroom-based civics assessment
10 models developed by the superintendent of public instruction, and
11 through leadership in the civic life of their communities. The
12 superintendent of public instruction shall annually select two students
13 from eastern Washington and two students from western Washington to
14 receive the award, and shall notify the governor and legislature with
15 the names of the recipients.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Subject to available funding, for the fiscal
17 year ending June 30, 2005, the superintendent of public instruction
18 shall provide professional development grants to teachers who have used
19 one or more of the classroom-based civics assessment models developed
20 by the superintendent of public instruction. The grants may be used to
21 attend state, regional, or national institutes, trainings, and
22 conferences related to civics education, if the institutes, trainings,
23 and conferences are covering skills and knowledge that are consistent
24 with Washington's civics essential academic learning requirements.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Subject to available funding, for the fiscal
26 year ending June 30, 2005, the superintendent of public instruction
27 shall provide summer professional development opportunities for
28 teachers in implementing the civics essential academic learning
29 requirements and the classroom-based civics assessments developed by
30 the superintendent of public instruction.

--- END ---