
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5079

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Senators Finkbeiner, Kohl-Welles, Oke, Winsley, Zarelli, Benton, Swecker, Esser, Hale, Johnson, Hewitt, McAuliffe, Rasmussen and Parlette)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/03.

1 AN ACT Relating to natural science, wildlife, and environmental
2 education; adding new sections to chapter 28A.300 RCW; and creating a
3 new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) Effective, natural science, wildlife,
6 and environmental education programs provide the foundation for the
7 development of literate children and adults, setting the stage for
8 lifelong learning. Furthermore, integrating the basic subject areas of
9 the common school curriculum in chapter 28A.230 RCW through natural
10 science, wildlife, and environmental education offers many
11 opportunities for achieving excellence in our schools. Well-designed
12 programs, aligned with the state's essential academic learning
13 requirements, contribute to the state's educational reform goals.

14 (2) Washington is fortunate to have institutions and programs that
15 currently provide quality natural science, wildlife, and environmental
16 education and teacher training that is already aligned with the state's
17 essential academic learning requirements.

1 (3) The legislature intends to further the development of natural
2 science, wildlife, and environmental education by establishing a
3 competitive grant program, funded through state moneys to the extent
4 those moneys are appropriated, or made available through other sources,
5 for proven natural science, wildlife, and environmental education
6 programs that are fully aligned with the state's essential academic
7 learning requirements.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
9 RCW to read as follows:

10 The Washington natural science, wildlife, and environmental
11 education partnership account is hereby created in the custody of the
12 state treasurer to provide natural science, wildlife, and environmental
13 education opportunities for teachers and students to help achieve the
14 highest quality of excellence in education through compliance with the
15 essential academic learning requirements. Revenues to the account
16 shall consist of appropriations made by the legislature or other
17 sources. Grants and their administration shall be paid from the
18 account. Only the superintendent of public instruction or the
19 superintendent's designee may authorize expenditures from the account.
20 The fund is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW,
21 but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
23 RCW to read as follows:

24 (1) The natural science, wildlife, and environmental education
25 grant program is hereby created, subject to the availability of funds
26 in the natural science, wildlife, and environmental education
27 partnership account. The program is created to promote proven and
28 innovative natural science, wildlife, and environmental education
29 programs that are fully aligned with the state's essential academic
30 learning requirements and includes but is not limited to instruction
31 about renewable resources, responsible use of resources, and
32 conservation.

33 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall establish and
34 publish funding criteria for environmental, natural science, wildlife,
35 forestry, and agricultural education grants. The office of
36 superintendent of public instruction shall involve a cross-section of

1 stakeholder groups to develop socially, economically, and
2 environmentally balanced funding criteria. These criteria shall be
3 based on compliance with the essential academic learning requirements
4 and use methods that encourage critical thinking. The criteria must
5 also include environmental, natural science, wildlife, forestry, and
6 agricultural education programs with one or more of the following
7 features:

8 (a) Interdisciplinary approaches to environmental, natural science,
9 wildlife, forestry, and agricultural issues;

10 (b) Programs that target underserved, disadvantaged, and
11 multicultural populations;

12 (c) Programs that reach out to schools across the state that would
13 otherwise not have access to specialized environmental, natural
14 science, wildlife, forestry, and agricultural education programs;

15 (d) Proven programs offered by innovative community partnerships
16 designed to improve student learning and strengthen local communities.

17 (3) Eligible uses of grants include, but are not limited to:

18 (a) Continuing in-service and preservice training for educators
19 with materials specifically developed to enable educators to teach
20 essential academic learning requirements in a compelling and effective
21 manner;

22 (b) Proven, innovative programs that align the basic subject areas
23 of the common school curriculum in chapter 28A.230 RCW with the
24 essential academic learning requirements; the basic subject areas
25 should be integrated by using environmental education, natural science,
26 wildlife, forestry, agricultural, and natural environment curricula to
27 meet the needs of various learning styles; and

28 (c) Support and equipment needed for the implementation of the
29 programs in this section.

30 (4) Grants may only be disbursed to nonprofit organizations exempt
31 from income tax under section 501(c) of the federal internal revenue
32 code that can provide matching funds or in-kind services.

33 (5) Grants may not be used for any partisan or political
34 activities.

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