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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5079**

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**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.

18       (3) The legislature intends to further the development of natural  
19 science, wildlife, and environmental education by establishing a

1 competitive grant program, funded through state moneys to the extent  
2 those moneys are appropriated, or made available through other sources,  
3 for proven natural science, wildlife, and environmental education  
4 programs that are fully aligned with the state's essential academic  
5 learning requirements.

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

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

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

22 (1) The natural science, wildlife, and environmental education  
23 grant program is hereby created, subject to the availability of funds  
24 in the natural science, wildlife, and environmental education  
25 partnership account. The program is created to promote proven and  
26 innovative natural science, wildlife, and environmental education  
27 programs that are fully aligned with the state's essential academic  
28 learning requirements.

29 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall establish and  
30 publish funding criteria for natural science, wildlife, and  
31 environmental education grants. These criteria shall be based on  
32 compliance with the essential academic learning requirements. The  
33 criteria must also include natural science, wildlife, and environmental  
34 education programs with one or more of the following features:

- 35 (a) Methods that encourage critical thinking;

1 (b) Interdisciplinary approaches to natural science and wildlife  
2 conservation issues;

3 (c) Programs that target underserved, disadvantaged, and  
4 multicultural populations;

5 (d) Programs that reach out to schools across the state that would  
6 otherwise not have access to specialized natural science, wildlife  
7 conservation, or environmental education programs;

8 (e) Proven programs offered by innovative community partnerships  
9 designed to improve student learning and strengthen local communities.

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

11 (a) Continuing in-service and preservice training for educators  
12 with materials specifically developed to enable educators to teach  
13 essential academic learning requirements in a compelling and effective  
14 manner;

15 (b) Proven, innovative programs that align the basic subject areas  
16 of the common school curriculum in chapter 28A.230 RCW with the  
17 essential academic learning requirements; the basic subject areas  
18 should be integrated by using environmental education, natural science,  
19 wildlife conservation, and natural environment curricula to meet the  
20 needs of various learning styles; and

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

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

26 (5) Grants may not be used for any partisan or political  
27 activities.

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