
SENATE BILL 5079

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Finkbeiner, Kohl-Welles, Oke, Winsley, Zarelli, Benton, Swecker, Esser, Hale, Johnson, Hewitt, McAuliffe, Rasmussen and Parlette

Read first time 01/14/2003. Referred to Committee on Education.

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) Funds 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) Funds may not be used for any partisan or political activities.

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