
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5603

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Senators Swecker, Jacobsen, Sheahan, Shin, Oke, Kastama, Hargrove, Stevens, Winsley and Rasmussen)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/04.

1 AN ACT Relating to teaching skills to strengthen family
2 communication and relationship skills; adding a new section to chapter
3 28A.320 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; and creating
4 a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Strong marital relationships result in
7 stronger children, families, and ultimately, stronger communities and
8 place less of a fiscal burden on the state. Relationship skills can be
9 learned, and once learned these skills can facilitate communication and
10 assist couples in avoiding conflict. In addition, effective
11 relationship skills are used in parenting, the workplace, schools,
12 neighborhoods, and other relationships. The state has a compelling
13 interest in encouraging its citizens in developing the relationship and
14 communication skills that are vital for a successful and fulfilling
15 marriage.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 Each school district board of directors may develop and adopt a

1 family preservation education program curricula. School districts are
2 encouraged to develop a family preservation education program curricula
3 and make a one credit course available to high school students. If the
4 office of the superintendent of public instruction develops a family
5 preservation education program model curricula but the board of
6 directors chooses not to adopt the model curricula, the board may
7 submit to the office of superintendent of public instruction a copy of
8 its proposed curricula for approval. A student is not required to
9 participate in the family preservation education program.

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

12 The office of superintendent of public instruction may develop a
13 family preservation education program model curricula that is available
14 to each of the school district board of directors. The model curricula
15 may be posted on the superintendent of public instruction's web site.
16 The model curricula may include, but is not limited to, instruction on
17 developing conflict management skills, communication skills, financial
18 responsibility, and parenting responsibility.

--- END ---