

HB 3127 - H AMD 766

By Representative Nixon

WITHDRAWN 2/14/2006

1 On page 11, after line 2, insert the following:

2 "NEW SECTION. Sec. 14. A new section is added to chapter 28A.
3 300 RCW to read as follows:

4 (1) The legislature finds that the complexity of modern
5 political life has created a demand for informed citizens who are
6 willing not only to vote, but also to participate in the elections
7 process.

8 (2) The purpose of this section is to create a pilot project
9 that will help to graduate students who are better voters, better
10 citizens, and who are ready to take an informed and responsible
11 place in society.

12 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction
13 shall work with selected county auditors' offices to develop an
14 interactive high school civics curriculum to help students learn
15 how to become informed citizens. The curriculum shall meet the
16 requirements for the office of the superintendent of public
17 instruction's classroom-based assessments. Staff from the office of
18 the superintendent of public instruction shall work directly in the
19 curriculum development.

20 (4) Counties shall apply to, and be selected by, the office of
21 the superintendent of public instruction to participate in the
22 pilot project under this section. A maximum of fifteen counties may
23 participate.

24 (5) The curriculum shall include, but not be limited to:

25 (a) Local government organization;

26 (b) A discussion of ballot measures, initiatives, and referenda;

27 (c) The role of the precinct in defining ballots, candidates,
28 and political activities;

29 (d) The roles and responsibilities of taxing jurisdictions in
30 establishing ballot measures; and

1 (e) The work of conducting elections.

2 (6) The study may include in the curriculum civics essential
3 academic learning requirements relating to examining representative
4 government and citizen participation and analyzing the purposes and
5 organization of government and laws.

6 (7) A curriculum guide shall be developed that will help
7 educators and students maximize the learning of key issues in
8 civics, and shall include strategies for helping students develop
9 voters' guide information for ballot issues and candidates who
10 appear on the ballot. This guide should incorporate ideas from
11 other Washington state civics education programs, such as "We the
12 People" and "Project Citizen." The guide should also present ideas
13 for sharing the results of an election with the larger community
14 and with local government officials in productive, meaningful ways.

15 (8) As part of the pilot project, high school students in
16 participating counties shall be selected who will have supervised
17 access to the county's election reporting web site to assist the
18 county in managing its internet election reporting system. School
19 districts in participating counties shall select students to
20 participate in this aspect of the pilot project. Counties shall
21 provide technical assistance and elections expertise to
22 participating schools, either through existing staff resources or
23 through a county-chosen vendor.

24 (9) In addition to the required components of the pilot project
25 under this section, other activities may be included in the
26 project, such as:

27 (a) Conducting mock county elections at schools;

28 (b) Using a school version of the county's reporting and
29 election system to conduct school elections, including, where
30 possible, having school election results posted on the county's
31 election web site; and

32 (c) Preparing an advisory issue on which the school or local
33 community would vote, including issue preparation, conducting the
34 election, and preparing a presentation to a local government
35 official on the results of the advisory issue.

36 (10) The pilot project shall operate for the 2006-07 and
37 2007-08 school years.

38 (11) Funds for the pilot project shall be made available to the
39 office of the superintendent of public instruction for a contract

1 position in civics curriculum and for support costs for soliciting
2 and implementing volunteer participation.

3 (12) The office of the superintendent of public instruction
4 shall adopt rules to implement this section, including rules
5 specifying selection criteria for counties that wish to participate.

6 (13) The superintendent of public instruction shall provide an
7 interim report to appropriate committees of the legislature by
8 December 1, 2008, and a final report by December 1, 2009, detailing
9 the results of the project and budget recommendations for
10 expansion, if appropriate.

11 (14) This section expires January 31, 2010.

12 NEW SECTION. Sec. 15. A new section is added to chapter 28A.
13 300 RCW to read as follows:

14 The office of the secretary of state shall enter into an
15 interlocal agreement under chapter 39.34 RCW with the office of the
16 superintendent of public instruction in which the office of the
17 secretary of state shall pay the office of the superintendent of
18 public instruction a minimum of two hundred forty thousand dollars,
19 representing funds received by the office of the secretary of state
20 under the federal help America vote act, for the purpose of
21 curriculum development by the office of the superintendent of
22 public instruction under this section. Payment under this section
23 shall be made no later than July 1, 2006. Funds under this section
24 shall be used for an eighteen-month contract position at the office
25 of the superintendent of public instruction, including seminars and
26 follow-up costs.

27 NEW SECTION. Sec. 16. A new section is added to chapter 28A.
28 300 RCW to read as follows:

29 (1) The sum of two hundred thousand dollars, or as much thereof
30 as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending
31 June 30, 2007, from the general fund to the office of the state
32 auditor for the purposes of this act.

33 (2) The sum of two hundred thousand dollars, or as much thereof
34 as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending
35 June 30, 2008, from the general fund to the office of the state
36 auditor for the purposes of this act.

37 (3) The appropriations in this section shall be made available

1 by the auditor's office directly to participating counties for
2 internet requirements by December 31, 2008. Funding is for the
3 purpose of supporting the prototype project. Counties may use funds
4 for in-house development, vendor agreements, or to support existing
5 services. Funding priority shall be given to counties in which
6 technology and budgeting constraints would make participating in
7 the pilot project a funding liability."

8 Renumber remaining sections consecutively and correct internal
9 references accordingly.

10 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Adds the requirement that the office of the superintendent of public instruction (OSPI) must work with selected county auditors' offices to develop an interactive high school civics curriculum to help students learn how to become informed citizens. The curriculum must meet the requirements for the OSPI's classroom-based assessments. Staff from the OSPI shall work directly in the curriculum development.