

SHB 1708 - S AMD 655

By Senators McAuliffe, Schmidt

ADOPTED 04/22/2005

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.175
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 The superintendent of public instruction shall review and evaluate
6 promising programs and practices for dropout prevention. The
7 superintendent may consult with education administrators and providers,
8 parents, students, and researchers as appropriate, and shall include in
9 the review dropout prevention programs using nonpunitive approaches to
10 school discipline. The superintendent shall report to the legislature
11 by December 1, 2005, and recommend:

12 (1) The most promising comprehensive dropout prevention programs
13 and practices that encompass school-wide or district-wide restructuring
14 of the delivery of educational services;

15 (2) The most promising targeted dropout prevention programs and
16 practices designed to provide social and other services in coordination
17 with educational services to students who are at risk of dropping out
18 due to the presence of family, personal, economic, or cultural
19 circumstances; and

20 (3) Policy and other changes to enhance the ability of career and
21 technical education and skills center programs to further contribute to
22 dropout prevention efforts.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) To the extent funds are appropriated,
24 the office of the superintendent of public instruction in conjunction
25 with the administrative office of the courts, shall convene a work
26 group to evaluate the following:

27 (a) Review the implementation of the Becca bill and other school
28 attendance measures to determine their consistent application across
29 the state and their conformance with state law;

- 1 (b) The definition of excused and unexcused absences;
- 2 (c) Creating incentives for school districts to improve student
- 3 attendance; and
- 4 (d) Related data collection requirements on graduation, dropouts,
- 5 student transfer, and other issues related to student attendance.
- 6 (2) The work group shall include representatives of the following
- 7 groups, agencies, and organizations:
- 8 (a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction;
- 9 (b) The state board of education;
- 10 (c) Teachers;
- 11 (d) School administrators;
- 12 (e) School counselors;
- 13 (f) Truancy officers and truancy board members;
- 14 (g) The administrator for the courts;
- 15 (h) Court judges;
- 16 (i) Prosecuting attorneys;
- 17 (j) The office of attorney general;
- 18 (k) Institutions of higher education;
- 19 (l) Members of the legislature; and
- 20 (m) Other interested education organizations and personnel.
- 21 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
- 22 report the findings of the work group under this section to the
- 23 governor, the state board of education, and the legislature no later
- 24 than January 10, 2006.

25 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.175.010 and 1991 c 235 s 4 are each amended to
26 read as follows:

27 Each school district shall account for the educational progress of
28 each of its students. To achieve this, school districts shall be
29 required to report annually to the superintendent of public
30 instruction:

- 31 (1) For students enrolled in each of a school district's high
- 32 school programs:
- 33 (a) The number of students (~~(eligible for graduation)~~) who graduate
- 34 in fewer than four years;
- 35 (b) The number of students who graduate in four years;
- 36 (c) The number of students who remain in school for more than four

1 years but who eventually graduate and the number of students who remain
2 in school for more than four years but do not graduate;

3 (d) The number of students who transfer to other schools;

4 (e) ~~((The number of students who enter from other schools;~~
5 ~~(f))~~ The number of students in the ninth through twelfth grade who
6 drop out of school over a four-year period; and

7 ~~((g))~~ (f) The number of students whose status is unknown.

8 (2) Dropout rates of students in each of the grades ~~((nine))~~ seven
9 through twelve.

10 (3) Dropout rates for student populations in each of the grades
11 ~~((nine))~~ seven through twelve by:

12 (a) Ethnicity;

13 (b) Gender;

14 (c) Socioeconomic status; and

15 (d) Disability status.

16 (4) The causes or reasons, or both, attributed to students for
17 having dropped out of school in grades ~~((nine))~~ seven through twelve.

18 (5) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules
19 under chapter 34.05 RCW to assure uniformity in the information
20 districts are required to report under subsections (1) through (4) of
21 this section. In developing rules, the superintendent of public
22 instruction shall consult with school districts, including
23 administrative and counseling personnel, with regard to the methods
24 through which information is to be collected and reported.

25 (6) In reporting on the causes or reasons, or both, attributed to
26 students for having dropped out of school, school building officials
27 shall, to the extent reasonably practical, obtain such information
28 directly from students. In lieu of obtaining such information directly
29 from students, building principals and counselors shall identify the
30 causes or reasons, or both, based on their professional judgment.

31 (7) The superintendent of public instruction shall report annually
32 to the legislature the information collected under subsections (1)
33 through (4) of this section.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The legislature finds that the dropout rate
35 of the state's Native American students is the highest in the state.
36 Approximately one-half of all Native American high school students drop
37 out before graduating with a diploma. The legislature also finds that

1 culturally relevant educational opportunities are important
2 contributors to other efforts to increase the rates of high school
3 graduation for Native American students. The legislature further finds
4 that the higher education participation rate for Native American
5 students is the lowest in the state, and that more can be done to
6 encourage Native American students to pursue higher educational
7 opportunities. The legislature intends to authorize accredited public
8 tribal colleges to participate in the running start program for the
9 purposes of reducing the dropout rate of Native American students and
10 encouraging greater participation rates in higher education.

11 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28A.600.300 and 2002 c 80 s 1 are each amended to read
12 as follows:

13 For the purposes of RCW 28A.600.310 through 28A.600.400,
14 "participating institution of higher education" or "institution of
15 higher education" means:

16 (1) A community or technical college as defined in RCW 28B.50.030;
17 (~~and~~)

18 (2) A public tribal college located in Washington and accredited by
19 the northwest commission on colleges and universities or another
20 accrediting association recognized by the United States department of
21 education; and

22 (3) Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University,
23 Washington State University, and The Evergreen State College, if the
24 institution's governing board decides to participate in the program in
25 RCW 28A.600.310 through 28A.600.400."

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26 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "prevention;" strike the
27 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 28A.175.010 and
28 28A.600.300; adding a new section to chapter 28A.175 RCW; and creating
29 new sections."

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