

**EHB 2579 - S AMD 316**

By Senator McAuliffe

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

3       "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that instruction in  
4 social studies, arts, health, and fitness is important to ensure a  
5 well-rounded and complete education. In particular, the civic mission  
6 of schools is strengthened and enhanced by comprehensive civics  
7 education and assessments. The legislature finds that effective and  
8 accountable democratic government depends upon an informed and engaged  
9 citizenry, and therefore, students should learn their rights and  
10 responsibilities as citizens, where those rights and responsibilities  
11 come from, and how to exercise them.

12       **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.095 and 2004 c 19 s 203 are each amended to  
13 read as follows:

14       (1) By the end of the 2008-09 school year, school districts shall  
15 have in place in elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools  
16 assessments or other strategies to assure that students have an  
17 opportunity to learn the essential academic learning requirements in  
18 social studies, the arts, and health and fitness. Social studies  
19 includes history, geography, civics, economics, and social studies  
20 skills. Beginning with the 2008-09 school year, school districts shall  
21 annually submit an implementation verification report to the office of  
22 the superintendent of public instruction.

23       (2) Beginning with the 2008-09 school year, school districts shall  
24 require students in the fourth or fifth grades, the seventh or eighth  
25 grades, and the eleventh or twelfth grades to each complete at least  
26 one classroom-based assessment in civics. The civics assessment may be  
27 selected from a list of classroom-based assessments approved by the  
28 office of the superintendent of public instruction. Beginning with the  
29 2008-09 school year, school districts shall annually submit

1 implementation verification reports to the office of the superintendent  
2 of public instruction documenting the use of the classroom-based  
3 assessments in civics.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The legislature finds that the  
5 complexity of modern political life has created a demand for informed  
6 citizens who are willing not only to vote, but also to participate in  
7 the elections process.

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

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

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

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

23 (a) Local government organization;

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

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

27 (d) The roles and responsibilities of taxing jurisdictions in  
28 establishing ballot measures; and

29 (e) The work of conducting elections.

30 (6) The study may include in the curriculum civics essential  
31 academic learning requirements relating to examining representative  
32 government and citizen participation and analyzing the purposes and  
33 organization of government and laws.

34 (7) A curriculum guide shall be developed that will help teachers  
35 and students maximize the learning of key issues in civics, and shall  
36 include strategies for helping students develop voters' guide  
37 information for ballot issues and candidates who appear on the ballot.

1 This guide should incorporate ideas from other Washington state civics  
2 education programs, such as "We the People" and "Project Citizen." The  
3 guide should also present ideas for sharing the results of an election  
4 with the larger community and with local government officials in  
5 productive, meaningful ways.

6 (8) In addition to the required components of the pilot project  
7 under this section, other activities may be included in the project,  
8 such as:

9 (a) Conducting mock county elections at schools; and

10 (b) Preparing an advisory issue on which the school would vote,  
11 including issue preparation, conducting the election, and preparing a  
12 presentation to a local government official on the results of the  
13 advisory issue.

14 (9) The pilot project shall operate for the 2006-07 and 2007-08  
15 school years.

16 (10) Funds for the pilot project shall be made available to the  
17 office of the superintendent of public instruction for a contract  
18 position in civics curriculum and for support costs for soliciting and  
19 implementing volunteer participation.

20 (11) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
21 adopt rules to implement this section, including rules specifying  
22 selection criteria for counties that wish to participate.

23 (12) The superintendent of public instruction shall provide an  
24 interim report to appropriate committees of the legislature by December  
25 1, 2008, and a final report by December 1, 2009, detailing the results  
26 of the project and budget recommendations for expansion, if  
27 appropriate.

28 (13) This section expires January 31, 2010.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, or  
30 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal  
31 year ending June 30, 2007, from the general fund to the superintendent  
32 of public instruction. The superintendent shall use the funds to  
33 provide competitive grants to school districts for curriculum  
34 alignment, development of innovative civics projects, and other  
35 activities that support the civics assessment under this act. As a  
36 condition of grant receipt, districts shall make the products developed  
37 under the grant widely available as examples of best practices."

1           On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "assessments;" strike the  
2 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 28A.230.095; creating  
3 new sections; making an appropriation; and providing an expiration  
4 date."

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