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HOUSE BILL 2579

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Upthegrove, Lantz, Dickerson, Appleton, Morrell, Hasegawa, Quall, Hunter, Haler, O'Brien, Murray, Hunt, Schual-Berke, Ormsby, Springer and Moeller

Read first time 01/10/2006. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to educational assessments; amending RCW  
2 28A.230.095; creating a new section; and making an appropriation.

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

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

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

15 (1) By the end of the 2008-09 school year, school districts shall  
16 have in place in elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools  
17 assessments or other strategies to assure that students have an  
18 opportunity to learn the essential academic learning requirements in

1 social studies, the arts, and health and fitness. Social studies  
2 includes history, geography, civics, economics, and social studies  
3 skills. Beginning with the 2008-09 school year, school districts shall  
4 annually submit an implementation verification report to the office of  
5 the superintendent of public instruction.

6 (2) Beginning with the 2008-09 school year, school districts shall  
7 require students in the fourth or fifth grades, the seventh or eighth  
8 grades, and the eleventh or twelfth grades to each complete at least  
9 one classroom-based assessment in civics. The civics assessment shall  
10 be selected from a list of classroom-based assessments approved by the  
11 office of the superintendent of public instruction. Beginning with the  
12 2008-09 school year, school districts shall annually submit  
13 implementation verification reports to the office of the superintendent  
14 of public instruction documenting the use of the classroom-based  
15 assessments in civics.

16 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. The sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, or  
17 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal  
18 year ending June 30, 2007, from the general fund to the superintendent  
19 of public instruction. The superintendent shall use the funds to  
20 provide competitive grants to school districts for curriculum  
21 alignment, development of innovative civics projects, and other  
22 activities that support the civics assessment under this act. As a  
23 condition of grant receipt, districts shall make the products developed  
24 under the grant widely available as examples of best practices.

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