
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5426

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education
(originally sponsored by Senators Carrell, Hargrove, Benson and Sheldon)

READ FIRST TIME 03/02/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to decreasing truancy and dropouts; creating new
2 sections; making an appropriation; providing an expiration date; and
3 declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there is a need
6 to review current laws and rules that govern school attendance
7 requirements. The legislature is concerned about the attendance of
8 youth in the educational system and the impact truancy and students
9 dropping out of school have on schools and communities.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Washington state Becca task force
11 shall convene a work group to evaluate the following:

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

15 (b) The definition of excused and unexcused absences;

16 (c) Creating incentives for school districts to improve student
17 attendance; and

1 (d) Related data collection requirements on graduation, dropouts,
2 student transfer, and other issues related to student attendance.

3 (2) The work group shall include representatives of the following
4 groups, agencies, and organizations:

5 (a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction;

6 (b) The state board of education;

7 (c) Teachers;

8 (d) School administrators;

9 (e) School counselors;

10 (f) Truancy officers and truancy board members;

11 (g) The administrator for the courts;

12 (h) Court judges;

13 (i) Prosecuting attorneys;

14 (j) The office of attorney general;

15 (k) Institutions of higher education;

16 (l) Members of the legislature; and

17 (m) Other interested education organizations and personnel.

18 (3) The Washington state Becca task force shall report the findings
19 of the work group to the governor, the state board of education, and
20 the legislature no later than January 10, 2006.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, or
22 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal
23 year ending June 30, 2006, from the general fund to the administrative
24 office of the courts for the purposes of this act.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
26 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
27 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
28 immediately.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act expires January 31, 2006.

--- END ---