

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1550

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**As Reported by House Committee On:**  
Education

**Title:** An act relating to after-school care programs.

**Brief Description:** Creating the Washington community learning center program.

**Sponsors:** Representatives McDermott, Santos, Appleton, Haler, Fromhold, Quall, Kagi, Barlow, Cody, P. Sullivan, Walsh, Schual-Berke, Kenney, Hasegawa and Ormsby.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Education: 2/13/07, 2/23/07 [DP].

### Brief Summary of Bill

- Creates the Washington Community Learning Center Program to support afterschool programs (programs) offered by partnerships of schools and community organizations.
- Allows grants to support the programs, subject to funding, with a priority for reading and mathematics programs for students attending low-performing schools.

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## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 7 members: Representatives Quall, Chair; Barlow, Vice Chair; Priest, Ranking Minority Member; Haigh, McDermott, Santos and P. Sullivan.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass. Signed by 2 members: Representatives Anderson, Assistant Ranking Minority Member and Roach.

**Staff:** Barbara McLain (786-7383).

### Background:

The Washington Afterschool Network and School's Out Washington are statewide partnerships of school districts, community nonprofit organizations, state agencies, and foundations whose goal is to improve the quantity and quality of afterschool programs. In

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2004, these partnerships, in collaboration with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), developed a statewide plan called "Afterschool in Washington: A Smart, Strategic Investment." One of the plan's primary recommendations was that the Legislature provide \$5 million to support 50 additional afterschool programs to serve 9,000 at-risk, low-income, and minority children.

The 21st Century Community Learning Center Program is a federally-funded competitive grant to offer academic enrichment, tutoring, family activities, and support services outside the regular school day or school year. The OSPI administers the grant. Any public or private organization is eligible to apply, although there is a priority for school/community partnerships. The minimum grant is \$50,000, with an average of about \$100,000. Grants are for a five year period. There are currently 29 grant recipients from four cohorts.

There is a statutory provision that state transportation funding is not provided for "extended day transportation."

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### **Summary of Bill:**

The Washington Community Learning Center Program is established, to be administered by the OSPI. The purpose is to create or expand community learning centers, provide training and professional development for center staff, increase public awareness about afterschool programs, and support intermediary organizations in providing leadership, coordination, and advocacy for afterschool programs.

To the extent funding is available, the OSPI provides Community Learning Center grants to any organization that meets the eligibility criteria of the federal 21st Century Community Learning Center Program. Priority must be given to requests that focus on reading and mathematics proficiency for students who attend Title I schools that are not meeting federal school improvement goals, and requests that include free transportation for students. Priority can be given to requests that involve multiple schools and organizations. Grant funds can be used for a broad array of out-of-school activities.

Each grant is for a maximum of five years. Recipients must report annually to the OSPI, including reporting on how transportation is provided for students. To the extent funding is available, the OSPI may provide grants for training and professional development of center staff. Grant recipients can seek flexibility from the OSPI to use a portion of their state transportation allocation to transport students to Community Learning Center Programs.

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**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect on August 1, 2007.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:**

(In support) Afterschool programs provide wonderful opportunities for students to explore their interests; work on their reading, writing, science, and math skills; and simply have fun. Innovative programs make important links between communities and schools. High quality afterschool programming is a key strategy for helping improve student achievement. Students fail their classes because they don't focus on doing homework and instead just goof off and watch television. Afterschool programs provide enrichment, exploration, creativity, and help with school. Afterschool is a peak time for juvenile delinquency and crime. Students in afterschool programs have a better outlook on the future and make better choices. Programs provide a safe place to go instead of staying home or getting into trouble with gangs or drugs. Afterschool programs encompass math to music and provide a forum for community, parent, school, and student engagement in learning.

(Opposed) None.

**Persons Testifying:** (In support) Representative McDermott, prime sponsor; Marcie Belfield, Sumner School District and School's Out Washington; Janet Frieling, School's Out Washington; Susan Brown, Kids Co.; Jessica Haydon, Yelm School District; Ruth Parks, April Heikkila, and Kelly Hanson, Harbor After School; and Lucinda Young, Washington Education Association.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.