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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6726**

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**State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2008 Regular Session**

**By Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education** (originally sponsored by Senators Tom, McAuliffe, and Rasmussen)

READ FIRST TIME 02/08/08.

1            AN ACT Relating to the professional educator standards board  
2 establishing a professional-level certification assessment; and  
3 amending RCW 28A.410.210 and 28A.410.220.

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

5            **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.410.210 and 2005 c 497 s 201 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7            The purpose of the professional educator standards board is to  
8 establish policies and requirements for the preparation and  
9 certification of educators that provide standards for competency in  
10 professional knowledge and practice in the areas of certification; a  
11 foundation of skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to help  
12 students with diverse needs, abilities, cultural experiences, and  
13 learning styles meet or exceed the learning goals outlined in RCW  
14 28A.150.210; knowledge of research-based practice; and professional  
15 development throughout a career. The Washington professional educator  
16 standards board shall:

17            (1) Establish policies and practices for the approval of programs  
18 of courses, requirements, and other activities leading to educator

- 1 certification including teacher, school administrator, and educational  
2 staff associate certification;
- 3 (2) Establish policies and practices for the approval of the  
4 character of work required to be performed as a condition of entrance  
5 to and graduation from any educator preparation program including  
6 teacher, school administrator, and educational staff associate  
7 preparation program as provided in subsection (1) of this section;
- 8 (3) Establish a list of accredited institutions of higher education  
9 of this and other states whose graduates may be awarded educator  
10 certificates as teacher, school administrator, and educational staff  
11 associate and establish criteria and enter into agreements with other  
12 states to acquire reciprocal approval of educator preparation programs  
13 and certification, including teacher certification from the national  
14 board for professional teaching standards;
- 15 (4) Establish policies for approval of nontraditional educator  
16 preparation programs;
- 17 (5) Conduct a review of educator program approval standards at  
18 least every five years, beginning in 2006, to reflect research findings  
19 and assure continued improvement of preparation programs for teachers,  
20 administrators, and school specialized personnel;
- 21 (6) Specify the types and kinds of educator certificates to be  
22 issued and conditions for certification in accordance with subsection  
23 (1) of this section and RCW 28A.410.010;
- 24 (7) Hear and determine educator certification appeals as provided  
25 by RCW 28A.410.100;
- 26 (8) Apply for and receive federal or other funds on behalf of the  
27 state for purposes related to the duties of the board;
- 28 (9) Adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW that are necessary for the  
29 effective and efficient implementation of this chapter;
- 30 (10) Maintain data concerning educator preparation programs and  
31 their quality, educator certification, educator employment trends and  
32 needs, and other data deemed relevant by the board;
- 33 (11) Serve as an advisory body to the superintendent of public  
34 instruction on issues related to educator recruitment, hiring,  
35 mentoring and support, professional growth, retention, educator  
36 evaluation including but not limited to peer evaluation, and revocation  
37 and suspension of licensure;

1 (12) Submit, by October 15th of each even-numbered year, a joint  
2 report with the state board of education to the legislative education  
3 committees, the governor, and the superintendent of public instruction.  
4 The report shall address the progress the boards have made and the  
5 obstacles they have encountered, individually and collectively, in the  
6 work of achieving the goals set out in RCW 28A.150.210;

7 (13) Establish the prospective teacher assessment system for basic  
8 skills and subject knowledge that shall be required to obtain residency  
9 certification pursuant to RCW 28A.410.220 through 28A.410.240; (~~and~~)

10 (14) By January 2010, set performance standards and develop, pilot,  
11 and implement a uniform and externally administered professional-level  
12 certification assessment based on demonstrated teaching skill. In the  
13 development of this assessment, consideration shall be given to changes  
14 in professional certification program components such as the  
15 culminating seminar; and

16 (15) Conduct meetings under the provisions of chapter 42.30 RCW.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.410.220 and 2002 c 92 s 2 are each amended to read  
18 as follows:

19 (1)(a) Beginning not later than September 1, 2001, the Washington  
20 professional educator standards board shall make available and pilot a  
21 means of assessing an applicant's knowledge in the basic skills. For  
22 the purposes of this section, "basic skills" means the subjects of at  
23 least reading, writing, and mathematics. Beginning September 1, 2002,  
24 except as provided in (c) of this subsection and subsection (~~(+3)~~) (4)  
25 of this section, passing this assessment shall be required for  
26 admission to approved teacher preparation programs and for persons from  
27 out-of-state applying for a Washington state residency teaching  
28 certificate.

29 (b) On an individual student basis, approved teacher preparation  
30 programs may admit into their programs a candidate who has not achieved  
31 the minimum basic skills assessment score established by the Washington  
32 professional educator standards board. Individuals so admitted may not  
33 receive residency certification without passing the basic skills  
34 assessment under this section.

35 (c) The Washington professional educator standards board may  
36 establish criteria to ensure that persons from out-of-state who are  
37 applying for residency certification and persons applying to master's

1 degree level teacher preparation programs can demonstrate to the  
2 board's satisfaction that they have the requisite basic skills based  
3 upon having completed another basic skills assessment acceptable to the  
4 Washington professional educator standards board or by some other  
5 alternative approved by the Washington professional educator standards  
6 board.

7 (2) The professional educator standards board shall set performance  
8 standards and develop, pilot, and implement a uniform and externally  
9 administered professional-level certification assessment based on  
10 demonstrated teaching skill. In the development of this assessment,  
11 consideration shall be given to changes in professional certification  
12 program components such as the culminating seminar.

13 (3) Beginning not later than September 1, 2002, the Washington  
14 professional educator standards board shall provide for the initial  
15 piloting and implementation of a means of assessing an applicant's  
16 knowledge in the subjects for which the applicant has applied for an  
17 endorsement to his or her residency or professional teaching  
18 certificate. The assessment of subject knowledge shall not include  
19 instructional methodology. Beginning September 1, 2005, passing this  
20 assessment shall be required to receive an endorsement for  
21 certification purposes.

22 ~~((+3))~~ (4) The Washington professional educator standards board  
23 may permit exceptions from the assessment requirements under  
24 subsections (1) ~~((and))~~, (2), and (3) of this section on a case-by-case  
25 basis.

26 ~~((+4))~~ (5) The Washington professional educator standards board  
27 shall provide for reasonable accommodations for individuals who are  
28 required to take the assessments in subsection (1) ~~((or))~~, (2), or (3)  
29 of this section if the individuals have learning or other disabilities.

30 ~~((+5))~~ (6) With the exception of applicants exempt from the  
31 requirements of subsections (1) ~~((and))~~, (2), and (3) of this section,  
32 an applicant must achieve a minimum assessment score or scores  
33 established by the Washington professional educator standards board on  
34 each of the assessments under subsections (1) ~~((and))~~, (2), and (3) of  
35 this section.

36 ~~((+6))~~ (7) The Washington professional educator standards board  
37 and superintendent of public instruction, as determined by the

1 Washington professional educator standards board, may contract with one  
2 or more third parties for:

3 (a) The development, purchase, administration, scoring, and  
4 reporting of scores of the assessments established by the Washington  
5 professional educator standards board under subsections (1) (~~and~~),  
6 (2), and (3) of this section;

7 (b) Related clerical and administrative activities; or

8 (c) Any combination of the purposes in this subsection.

9 (~~(7)~~) (8) Applicants for admission to a Washington teacher  
10 preparation program and applicants for residency and professional  
11 certificates who are required to successfully complete one or more of  
12 the assessments under subsections (1) (~~and~~), (2), and (3) of this  
13 section, and who are charged a fee for the assessment by a third party  
14 contracted with under subsection (~~(6)~~) (7) of this section, shall pay  
15 the fee charged by the contractor directly to the contractor. Such  
16 fees shall be reasonably related to the actual costs of the contractor  
17 in providing the assessment.

18 (~~(8)~~) (9) The superintendent of public instruction is responsible  
19 for supervision and providing support services to administer this  
20 section.

21 (~~(9)~~) (10) The Washington professional educator standards board  
22 shall collaboratively select or develop and implement the assessments  
23 and minimum assessment scores required under this section with the  
24 superintendent of public instruction and shall provide opportunities  
25 for representatives of other interested educational organizations to  
26 participate in the selection or development and implementation of such  
27 assessments in a manner deemed appropriate by the Washington  
28 professional educator standards board.

29 (~~(10)~~) (11) The Washington professional educator standards board  
30 shall adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW that are reasonably necessary  
31 for the effective and efficient implementation of this section.

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