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HOUSE BILL 2313

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Representatives Bergquist, Haigh, Reykdal, Hunt, Santos, Riccelli, Fey, Pollet, Lias, Orwall, Fitzgibbon, Tarleton, Hudgins, Stonier, Habib, Roberts, Hawkins, Goodman, Sells, and Ormsby

Read first time 01/15/14. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring state funding to support professional  
2 development for K-12 educators; adding a new section to chapter 28A.415  
3 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that  
6 implementation of the common core state standards, increased emphasis  
7 on closing the educational opportunity gap, expectations for  
8 improvement on multiple measures of student learning and achievement,  
9 and implementation of new teacher and principal evaluation systems are  
10 only a few of the significant changes made in recent years to the  
11 public school system. The legislature further acknowledges that in  
12 order to address these changes, school staff need to spend time working  
13 together to gain knowledge and skills, develop strategies, and evaluate  
14 results. This professional development time is critical, but should  
15 not come at the expense of providing instruction to students.  
16 Therefore, the legislature intends to provide funding to support  
17 professional development outside the regular school year.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 28A.415  
2    RCW to read as follows:

3        (1) The legislature must appropriate sufficient funds to provide,  
4    beginning in the 2014-15 school year, at least two professional  
5    development days per year for all state-funded certificated  
6    instructional staff, state-funded certificated building-level  
7    administrators, and state-funded classified teaching or instructional  
8    assistants.

9        (2) For the purposes of this section, "state-funded" means funds  
10    and staffing units allocated under RCW 28A.150.260, including funds  
11    allocated for the learning assistance program, the transitional  
12    bilingual instruction program, special education, and the highly  
13    capable program. The method of calculation for providing the funds  
14    under this section shall be specified in the omnibus appropriations  
15    act.

16        (3) School districts must provide the two professional development  
17    days under this section outside the minimum one hundred eighty-day  
18    school calendar. School districts may organize the time as portions of  
19    days rather than two single full days as long as the total time equates  
20    to two days.

21        (4) The legislature may direct a required focus or content for the  
22    professional development funded under this section in the omnibus  
23    appropriations act. If the legislature does not so direct, the focus  
24    and content of the professional development shall be as directed by the  
25    school district board of directors.

26        (5) The funding provided under this section shall not be considered  
27    part of the program of basic education under RCW 28A.150.200.

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