CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SENATE BILL 5496

Chapter 161, Laws of 2013

63rd Legislature
2013 Regular Session

K-12 EDUCATION--ONLINE EDUCATION--PRIVATE SCHOOLS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/28/13

Passed by the Senate March 7, 2013
YEAS 49  NAYS 0

BRAD OWEN
President of the Senate

Passed by the House April 15, 2013
YEAS 97  NAYS 0

FRANK CHOPP
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved May 7, 2013, 2:26 p.m.

I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is SENATE BILL 5496 as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

HUNTER G. GOODMAN
Secretary

FILED
May 7, 2013

JAY INSLEE
Governor of the State of Washington

Secretary of State
State of Washington
AN ACT Relating to authorizing approval of online school programs in private schools; adding a new section to chapter 28A.195 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. The legislature supports student access to a variety of educational options, both public and private. However, state policies regarding the approval of private schools were created before online learning was possible. Consequently, these policies do not provide for approval criteria that are sufficiently flexible to accommodate online learning. While some policy adjustments have been made to permit public online choices, current law does not provide a clear process for private schools to obtain state approval to offer similar learning options.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 28A.195 RCW to read as follows:

(1) If a private school that has been approved under this chapter by the state board of education seeks approval also to offer and administer an online school program as defined under RCW 28A.250.010,
including under contract with a third party, the requirements for minimum instructional hour offerings under RCW 28A.195.010(1) shall be deemed met for the online school program. A residential dwelling of a parent, guardian, or custodian shall be deemed an adequate physical facility for students enrolled in the online school program. The online school program is not required to be offered for the same grade levels as the approved private school.

(2) The state board of education may approve an online school program under this section that meets other applicable requirements under this chapter.

(3) No private school offering and administering an online program under this section, third party that contracts with a private school to offer and administer an online program, or parent or guardian providing an online program may receive state funding to provide the program.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. The private school advisory committee appointed under RCW 28A.195.050 shall examine issues associated with state approval of online school programs offered by private schools and shall consider whether criteria or procedures for approval in addition to those provided in section 2 of this act should be considered by the legislature. The committee must submit a report on its deliberations, with recommendations if necessary, to the education committees of the legislature by January 10, 2014. In developing recommendations, the committee shall be mindful of the legislature's intent that private schools should be subject only to those minimum state controls necessary to ensure the health and safety of all the students in the state and to ensure a sufficient basic education to meet usual graduation requirements.

Passed by the Senate March 7, 2013.
Passed by the House April 15, 2013.
Approved by the Governor May 7, 2013.
Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 7, 2013.