
HOUSE BILL 1863

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Blake, Dye, Kretz, Dent, Klippert, Irwin, Corry, Orcutt, Shewmake, and Eslick

Read first time 02/04/19. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to supporting effective agriculture, food, and
2 natural resource education; amending RCW 28A.300.080 and 28A.300.090;
3 and adding new sections to chapter 28A.300 RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.300.080 and 1983 1st ex.s. c 34 s 1 are each
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (1) The legislature recognizes that agriculture is the most basic
8 and singularly important industry in the state, that agriculture is
9 of central importance to the welfare and economic stability of the
10 state, and that the maintenance of this vital industry requires a
11 continued source of trained and qualified individuals who qualify for
12 employment in agriculture ((and agribusiness)), food, and natural
13 resource career pathways.

14 (2) The legislature finds that research shows that students
15 enrolled in a career and technical education program in high school
16 have a higher graduation rate than other students, and that the
17 agricultural education branch of career and technical education
18 fosters an understanding of the history and principles of
19 agriculture, agriscience, manufacturing, agribusiness, leadership,
20 advocacy, career-connected learning experiences, and community
21 service.

1 (3) The legislature, therefore, intends to promote comprehensive
2 and formal instruction in agricultural education, and membership in
3 the corresponding career and technical student organizations, to
4 provide students with the opportunity to:

5 (a) Develop fundamental leadership and communication skills;

6 (b) Develop an applied understanding of the agricultural industry
7 and its potential;

8 (c) Explore and understand career opportunities through
9 supervised experiences;

10 (d) Engage with industry mentors; and

11 (e) Plan for career and college success.

12 (4) In an effort to assist actions of schools to offer career and
13 technical education courses, the legislature intends to support
14 dropout prevention programs and career readiness, and improve
15 learning opportunities and educational outcomes in agriculture, food,
16 and natural resource education.

17 (5) The legislature declares that it is within the best interests
18 of the people and state of Washington that a comprehensive
19 ((vocational education program in agriculture)) career-connected
20 learning opportunity through a career and technical education program
21 in agriculture, food, and natural resource sciences be maintained in
22 the state's secondary school system in order to ensure both an
23 adequate supply of trained and skilled individuals, and appropriate
24 representation of sexual orientation, racial, and ethnic groups in
25 all phases of the industry.

26 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.300.090 and 1983 1st ex.s. c 34 s 2 are each
27 amended to read as follows:

28 (1) A ((vocational)) career-connected learning opportunity in the
29 agriculture, food, and natural resource career cluster area shall be
30 established as a career and technical education ((service area
31 within)) program in the office of the superintendent of public
32 instruction ((shall be established)). Adequate funding for the
33 staffing of individuals trained or experienced in the field of
34 ((vocational agriculture shall be provided for the vocational))
35 agriculture, food, and natural resource education ((service area for
36 coordination of the state)) shall be provided for the program ((and
37 to)).

38 (2) The program shall provide assistance to ((local)) school
39 districts ((for the coordination of the)) and coordinate its

1 activities ~~((of))~~ with applicable career and technical student
2 ~~((agricultural))~~ organizations ~~((and associations))~~. The program
3 staff members must include, but are not limited to, the supervisor of
4 the agriculture, food, and natural resource education program
5 employed by the office of the superintendent of public instruction
6 and any additional staff member deemed appropriate.

7 ~~((2))~~ (3) ~~((vocational agriculture education service area))~~
8 program shall:

9 (a) Assess needs in ~~((vocational))~~ agriculture (education),
10 food, and natural resource sciences, assist local school districts in
11 establishing ~~((vocational))~~ agriculture, food, and natural resource
12 education programs, review local school district applications for
13 approval of ~~((vocational))~~ agriculture, food, and natural resource
14 education programs, evaluate existing programs, and plan research and
15 studies for the improvement of curriculum materials for specialty
16 areas of ~~((vocational))~~ agriculture, food, and natural resource
17 education. Standards and criteria developed under this subsection
18 shall satisfy the mandates of federally-assisted ~~((vocational))~~
19 career and technical education;

20 (b) Develop in-service programs for teachers and administrators
21 of ~~((vocational))~~ agriculture, food, and natural resource education,
22 review applications for ~~((vocational))~~ career and technical education
23 agriculture, food, and natural resource teacher certification, and
24 assist in teacher recruitment and placement in ~~((vocational))~~ career
25 and technical education agriculture, food, and natural resource
26 programs;

27 (c) Serve as a liaison with the future farmers of America,
28 representatives of business, industry, and appropriate public
29 agencies, and institutions of higher education in order to
30 disseminate information, promote improvement of ~~((vocational))~~ career
31 and technical education agriculture, food, and natural resource
32 programs, and assist in the development of adult and continuing
33 education programs in ~~((vocational))~~ agriculture, food, and natural
34 resource education; and

35 (d) Establish an advisory task force committee of agriculturists,
36 who represent the diverse areas of the agricultural industry in
37 Washington, which shall make annual recommendations including, but
38 not limited to, the development of curriculum, staffing, strategies
39 for the purpose of establishing a source of trained and qualified
40 individuals in agriculture, and strategies for articulating the state

1 program in (~~vocational~~) agriculture, food, and natural resource
2 education, including youth leadership throughout the state school
3 system.

4 (4) For the purposes of this section, "agriculture, food, and
5 natural resource career cluster area" means a program of study
6 requiring the student to:

7 (a) Complete courses in the following areas:

8 (i) Agribusiness systems;

9 (ii) Animal systems;

10 (iii) Biotechnology systems;

11 (iv) Environmental service systems;

12 (v) Food products and processing systems;

13 (vi) Natural resource systems;

14 (vii) Plant systems; and

15 (viii) Power, structural, and technical systems;

16 (b) Develop an extended learning program that is supervised by
17 their agriculture, food, and natural resource educator; and

18 (c) Be engaged in a career and technical student organization.

19 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
20 RCW to read as follows:

21 The legislature finds that career and technical student
22 organizations prepare students to enter a postsecondary education
23 institute and a career. The legislature finds also that barriers for
24 agriculture, food, and natural resource students should be removed.

25 Therefore, to help local school districts meet performance
26 targets established in RCW 28A.700.040, to provide assistance to
27 students of agriculture, food, and natural resource education
28 programs at schools that qualify as rural and low-income schools
29 under the federal every student succeeds act, P.L. 114-95, and to
30 provide assistance consistent with the requirements the federal every
31 student succeeds act, the office of the superintendent of public
32 instruction shall provide every student enrolled in an approved
33 agriculture, food, and natural resource education course, based on
34 annual June 1st enrollment, with membership to the corresponding
35 career and technical student organizations.

36 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
37 RCW to read as follows:

1 The superintendent of public instruction, in consultation with
2 the board of directors of the Washington FFA association, shall adopt
3 and periodically revise rules to implement RCW 28A.300.090 and
4 section 3 of this act.

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