
HOUSE BILL 1544

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Representatives Klippert, Steele, Dufault, J. Johnson, and Dent

Read first time 02/18/21. 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 an adequate
23 supply of trained and skilled individuals.

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

26 (1) A ~~((vocational))~~ career-connected learning opportunity in the
27 agriculture, food, and natural resource career cluster area shall be
28 established as a career and technical education ((service area
29 within)) program in the office of the superintendent of public

30 instruction ((shall be established)). Adequate funding for the
31 staffing of individuals trained or experienced in the field of
32 ((vocational agriculture shall be provided for the vocational))
33 agriculture, food, and natural resource education ((service area for
34 coordination of the state)) shall be provided for the program ((and
35 to)).

36 (2) The program shall provide assistance to ((local)) school
37 districts ((for the coordination of the)) and coordinate its
38 activities ((of)) with applicable career and technical student
39 ((agricultural)) organizations ((and associations)). The program

1 staff members must include, but are not limited to, the supervisor of
2 the agriculture, food, and natural resource education program
3 employed by the office of the superintendent of public instruction
4 and any additional staff member deemed appropriate.

5 ~~((2))~~ (3) The ~~((vocational agriculture education service area))~~
6 program shall:

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

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

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

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

1 education, including youth leadership throughout the state school
2 system.

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

6 (a) Complete courses in the following areas:

7 (i) Agribusiness systems;

8 (ii) Animal systems;

9 (iii) Biotechnology systems;

10 (iv) Environmental service systems;

11 (v) Food products and processing systems;

12 (vi) Natural resource systems;

13 (vii) Plant systems; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

37 The superintendent of public instruction, in consultation with
38 the board of directors of the Washington FFA association, shall adopt

1 and periodically revise rules to implement RCW 28A.300.090 and
2 section 3 of this act.

--- **END** ---