
SENATE BILL 5813

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Senators Dozier, Braun, Lias, Muzzall, Torres, Warnick, and J. Wilson

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1 AN ACT Relating to mandating instruction on agricultural literacy
2 for students in grades seven through 12; adding a new section to
3 chapter 28A.230 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) Agriculture is the oldest, largest,
6 and most essential industry in the world and in the state of
7 Washington. Within the last 100 years, the population has moved from
8 approximately 30 percent living on farms to less than two percent
9 living on farms. With that change in circumstances, the knowledge of
10 agriculture has waned in the general population.

11 (2) The legislature finds that a basic knowledge of growing
12 things and of the importance of agriculture as well as the
13 opportunities available for young people in the field of agriculture
14 is essential to perpetuate the industry into the future. Agricultural
15 producers, farmers, and ranchers feed the state, the country, and the
16 world.

17 (3) In Washington state, and in the United States, agricultural
18 exports outnumber agricultural imports. The United States exports
19 soybeans, beef, veal, pork, poultry, and numerous fresh fruits and
20 vegetables. Washington exports fish and seafood, frozen French fries,

1 wheat, dairy, and hay among many others. There are over 300 different
2 crops grown in Washington and the exports alone are worth \$8 billion.

3 (4) Agriscience, agribusiness, and production agriculture provide
4 over 164,000 jobs in Washington. Basic agricultural literacy can
5 inform students on environmental issues such as land use, water
6 quality, air quality, and wildlife protection. The legislature finds
7 that agricultural literacy is essential for building the future
8 leaders of our state and our country.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 (1) Beginning no later than the 2025-26 school year, school
12 districts must offer instruction in agricultural literacy. The
13 instruction may be offered beginning in grade seven, but each student
14 must be offered the instruction at least once before completing grade
15 12. The instruction, at the discretion of the school or school
16 district, may be integrated into a relevant course or a course may be
17 repurposed to include the instruction.

18 (2) To the extent practicable, the office of the superintendent
19 of public instruction must make available in the library of openly
20 licensed courseware under RCW 28A.300.803, curricular resources
21 related to agricultural literacy.

22 (3) For the purposes of this section, "agricultural literacy"
23 means an understanding of how the agricultural industry works
24 including where food comes from, who grows it, agriculture's effect
25 on the economy, the environment, technology, and lifestyle, and its
26 relationship to livestock.

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