
SENATE BILL 5668

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Zeiger, Hunt, and Rolfes

1 AN ACT Relating to the expansion of civics education in public
2 schools; adding a new section to chapter 28A.415 RCW; creating a new
3 section; making appropriations; providing an effective date; and
4 declaring an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** FINDINGS—INTENT. The legislature finds
7 that training for teachers in public schools to provide civics
8 education is not available in all districts due to limited budgets
9 and competing demands for funding.

10 It is the intent of the legislature to develop an in-depth and
11 interactive teacher training program to improve the ability of
12 teachers throughout the state to implement the legislatively mandated
13 0.5 credit civics education graduation requirement. This expanded
14 civics education program should include components assuring that
15 students have basic knowledge about national, state, tribal, and
16 local governments, and thus become well prepared to become informed,
17 active citizens.

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

1 EXPANDED CIVICS EDUCATION PROGRAM. (1) An expanded civics
2 education teacher training program is established within the office
3 of the superintendent of public instruction.

4 (2) The expanded civics education program must provide for the
5 selection of a team of qualified social studies teachers from across
6 the state who will:

7 (a) Develop teacher training materials using an existing textbook
8 that includes civic engagement with national, state, tribal, and
9 local government;

10 (b) Provide teacher training across the state using the tools
11 established by the office of the superintendent of public instruction
12 including the "Six Proven Practices for Enhancing Civic Education,"
13 the "(C3) Instructional Framework found in the College, Career, and
14 Civic Life," "The Guardian of Democracy-Successor Report to the Civic
15 Mission of Schools," and "CIRCLE: The Center for Information and
16 Research on Civic Learning and Engagement"; and

17 (c) Develop a process for sustaining and building teacher
18 capacity.

19 (3) The program shall assure:

20 (a) An increase in the number of teachers with the knowledge and
21 skills to effectively engage students in civic education;

22 (b) An increase in the number of students who have a basic
23 understanding of how governments work; and

24 (c) An increase in the number of students from every demographic
25 and socioeconomic group who know their rights and responsibilities
26 within society and are prepared to exercise them.

27 (4) To implement the program in this section, the office of the
28 superintendent of public instruction shall contract with a Washington
29 state-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has an extensive
30 track record of nonpartisan, fact-based federal, tribal, state, and
31 local civic education of students and adults.

32 (5) The office of the superintendent of public instruction may
33 accept gifts and grants to assist with the establishment and
34 implementation of the program in this section.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The sum of two hundred fifty thousand
36 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
37 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, from the general fund to the
38 office of the superintendent of public instruction for the purposes
39 of this act.

1 (2) The sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars, or as much
2 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year
3 ending June 30, 2018, from the general fund to the office of the
4 superintendent of public instruction for the purposes of this act.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
6 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
7 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
8 effect July 1, 2017.

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