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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6521**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Wellman, Hunt, Mullet, and Wilson, C.)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating an innovative learning pilot program;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; creating a new section;  
3 and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends to explore new  
6 school funding models that would permit and promote equitable access  
7 to innovative modes of instruction which allow students to earn  
8 credit through demonstration of mastery learning standards instead of  
9 completion of hours of classroom instruction. Therefore, the  
10 legislature intends to create a pilot program which authorizes full-  
11 time enrollment funding for students participating in established  
12 mastery-based learning programs and to examine the efficiency, cost,  
13 and impacts of these funding models.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300  
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) By July 1, 2020, the office of the superintendent of public  
17 instruction shall create and administer an innovative learning pilot  
18 program to authorize full-time enrollment funding for students  
19 participating in mastery-based learning programs.

1 (2) To participate in the innovative learning pilot program,  
2 school districts must have a waiver from the credit unit graduation  
3 requirements, granted by the state board of education, for the  
4 2019-20 school year. Districts wishing to participate must submit to  
5 the office of the superintendent of public instruction, in a manner  
6 determined by the office, the following information:

7 (a) Affirmation that the district wishes to participate in the  
8 pilot program and the specific schools with a waiver within the  
9 district that would participate in the pilot program;

10 (b) A description of the mastery-based learning program that the  
11 school district intends to implement and the number of students that  
12 are expected to participate; and

13 (c) An explanation of the goals of the mastery-based learning  
14 program and how the school district intends to measure and assess  
15 attainment of the goals.

16 (3) The pilot program must be in effect through the 2022-23  
17 school year.

18 (4) The office of the superintendent of public instruction may  
19 adopt rules necessary for the effective and efficient implementation  
20 of this section, including rules that define full-time enrollment  
21 standards for students based on regular participation in an approved  
22 mastery-based learning program rather than hours of seat time. Rules  
23 adopted pursuant to this section must permit participating school  
24 districts to report full-time equivalent students in an approved  
25 mastery-based learning program for general apportionment funding.

26 (5) By December 1, 2022, the office of the superintendent of  
27 public instruction, in collaboration with the state board of  
28 education, must report to the legislature regarding the efficiency,  
29 cost, and impacts of the funding model or models used under the pilot  
30 program.

31 (6) For purposes of this section, "mastery-based learning  
32 program" means an educational program where:

33 (a) Students advance upon demonstrated mastery of content;

34 (b) Competencies include explicit, measurable, transferable  
35 learning objectives that empower students;

36 (c) Assessments are meaningful and a positive learning experience  
37 for students;

38 (d) Students receive rapid, differentiated support based on their  
39 individual learning needs; and

1           (e) Learning outcomes emphasize competencies that include  
2 application and creation of knowledge along with the development of  
3 important skills and dispositions.

4           NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
5 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of  
6 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
7 effect immediately.

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