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SENATE BILL 5766

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State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session

By Senators Pelz, Bailey, Rinehart, Erwin, Murray, Anderson, A. Smith, Newhouse, Stratton and Bauer.

Read first time February 19, 1991. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to a program for academic excellence for at-risk  
2 youth; adding new sections to chapter 28A.630 RCW; and providing a  
3 contingent effective date.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**            (1) The legislature finds that more and  
6 more young people, especially in the urban areas of the state, are  
7 becoming involved with gangs, substance abuse, including drug  
8 trafficking, and teen pregnancy. As they become involved in such  
9 activities, they more frequently drop out of school than other students  
10 and are at greater risk of experiencing unemployment, becoming involved  
11 with criminal activities, and turning to public assistance programs for  
12 support. The end result is harm to both themselves and society.  
13 Substance abuse, gang activity, unemployment, and teen pregnancy are  
14 taking a disproportionate toll on minority youth.

1 (2) The legislature further finds that existing programs take a  
2 piecemeal approach to the needs of at-risk youth, offering only limited  
3 services. As a consequence, the current programs are not adequately  
4 effective in stopping the proliferation of gangs, substance abuse,  
5 unemployment, teen pregnancy, or other problems among youth,  
6 particularly in the urban areas of the state. Studies show clearly  
7 that poor academic performance plays a significant part in these  
8 problems.

9 (3) The purpose of sections 1 through 12 of this act is to create  
10 a cost-effective program that will challenge, motivate, and give  
11 incentive to underachieving, at-risk students in an effort to: Boost  
12 their academic achievement in school; reduce their involvement with  
13 gangs and substance abuse; reduce the numbers of at-risk youth,  
14 particularly minorities, who are unemployed; and reduce the number of  
15 teen pregnancies.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act shall be known and may be cited  
17 as project DREAM (dare to reach for educational aspirations and marks).

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Unless the context clearly indicates  
19 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout sections 4  
20 through 12 of this act.

21 (1) "Advisor" means an adult assigned specific responsibilities to  
22 work individually with at-risk students who receive services under  
23 project DREAM established under section 4 of this act.

24 (2) "At-risk student" or "student" means a student age fourteen  
25 through age twenty-one who meets the following criteria:

26 (a) The student is one or more grade levels behind in basic skills  
27 as determined by placement testing or has not graduated from high

1 school or has not successfully completed the general educational  
2 development test;

3 (b) The student has violated school district or school building  
4 rules of conduct on at least three occasions in the same school year;

5 (c) The student comes from an historically disadvantaged group; and

6 (d) The family income level of the student is below the median  
7 level for the state.

8 (3) "Department" means the department of social and health  
9 services.

10 (4) "Superintendent" means the state superintendent of public  
11 instruction.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The superintendent, working with the  
13 employment security department, the department of social and health  
14 services, the state board for vocational education in the office of the  
15 governor, and other state agencies as are appropriate, shall be the  
16 lead agency in developing and administering project DREAM, dare to  
17 reach for educational aspirations and marks, a pilot grant program for  
18 academic excellence for underachieving, at-risk students. The program  
19 shall emphasize a focus on minority students but shall not be  
20 exclusively limited to serving minority students.

21 (2) Initially, the program shall be limited to the school districts  
22 of Seattle, Tacoma, Spokane, Yakima, and Pasco, focusing on the areas  
23 within these school districts with the highest percentages of  
24 underachieving, at-risk students.

25 (3) Project DREAM shall commence at the beginning of the school  
26 year following receipt of federal funds by the superintendent of public  
27 instruction and, subject to continued federal or state funding, end at  
28 the completion of the fourth school year following implementation of  
29 the program.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**        Each school district participating in  
2 project DREAM shall be responsible for the following:

3        (1) Individual programs under project DREAM shall consist of the  
4 following:

5        (a) Academic counseling and outreach, including study skills;

6        (b) Parent and family outreach and involvement;

7        (c) Employment and vocational counseling and training;

8        (d) Substance abuse awareness and counseling, and treatment as  
9 necessary;

10       (e) Teen pregnancy and teen parenting counseling; and

11       (f) Positive self-image building.

12       (2) In designing the local program, the participating districts are  
13 encouraged to consider:

14       (a) Dropout prevention strategies developed by school districts  
15 under RCW 28A.175.020 through 28A.175.070, the state grant program for  
16 local school district student motivation, retention, and retrieval  
17 programs; and

18       (b) Substance abuse prevention, intervention, and aftercare  
19 strategies developed by school districts under RCW 28A.170.010 through  
20 28A.170.070, the state grant program for local school district  
21 substance abuse awareness programs.

22       (3) In designing the local program, the participating districts  
23 shall:

24       (a) Contact the local job service center to establish how the  
25 center can assist the district in providing participating students  
26 employment and vocational counseling and training; and

27       (b) Contact branch offices of the department and local community-  
28 based providers of health care to establish how these entities can and  
29 will assist the district in providing participating students counseling

1 and information, and treatment as necessary, relating to substance  
2 abuse, teen pregnancy, and teen parenting.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The participating districts shall be  
4 responsible for screening and employing adult advisors and for  
5 providing any training necessary for the adult advisors to carry out  
6 their responsibilities effectively.

7 (2) Each adult advisor shall be responsible for the following:

8 (a) Maintaining a caseload of at-risk students not to exceed  
9 fifteen;

10 (b) Signing a written agreement with each student to comply with  
11 specific state or local regulations, or both, while participating in  
12 project DREAM;

13 (c) Meeting weekly with each student to monitor the student's  
14 progress under project DREAM;

15 (d) Meeting bi-weekly with each student's teachers, school  
16 counselor, and parents or guardian, and family members;

17 (e) Maintaining for each student a portfolio; and

18 (f) Serving as the facilitator in getting the student together with  
19 school or community-based health care providers, vocational counselors,  
20 job service center personnel, employment interviews, and other persons  
21 or groups that can help the student gain maximum benefits from  
22 participating in project DREAM.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Each student shall be responsible to do  
24 the following:

25 (1) Sign a written agreement with his or her adult advisor to  
26 comply with all state or local regulations, or both, while a  
27 participant in project DREAM;

- 1 (2) Meet weekly with his or her adult advisor to discuss the
- 2 student's progress;
- 3 (3) Maintain a personal written or audio portfolio;
- 4 (4) Attend all programs, seminars, training sessions, and other
- 5 activities arranged by their advisor; and
- 6 (5) Maintain regular attendance at school or at work or both.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** (1) Each school district participating  
8 in project DREAM shall submit annually to the superintendent of public  
9 instruction a report on the district's local program. The report shall  
10 include an assessment of the effectiveness of the services, programs,  
11 or activities provided to the participating at-risk students and other  
12 information required by the superintendent. The superintendent shall  
13 establish the date for submittal of reports.

14 (2) The superintendent shall work with the participating districts  
15 in developing reporting requirements that do not create excessive  
16 paperwork but that provide information necessary for the superintendent  
17 to evaluate the impact of project DREAM on the participating at-risk  
18 students.

19 (3) The superintendent shall submit annually to the legislature and  
20 the governor a report on project DREAM. The first report shall be  
21 submitted not later than December 1 of the second school year following  
22 implementation of the program, and each succeeding report shall be  
23 submitted not later than December 1st.

24 (4) The superintendent's reports shall include information on how  
25 many students have or are participating in the local programs and the  
26 success of the programs in meeting the needs of the participating at-  
27 risk students.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 9.**        The superintendent shall undertake the  
2 following activities:

3        (1) Organize a speakers' bureau of prominent role models, with an  
4 emphasis on minority role models;

5        (2) Meet with community and business leaders to market project  
6 DREAM; and

7        (3) Coordinate with other state and local agencies a centralized  
8 data base of preexisting services that can meet the purposes of project  
9 DREAM.

10       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 10.**        Through the state clearinghouse for  
11 education information, the superintendent shall collect and disseminate  
12 to school districts and other interested parties information about  
13 project DREAM.

14       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 11.**        The employment security department, the  
15 department of social and health services, the state board for  
16 vocational education in the office of the governor, and other state  
17 agencies as may be involved with the development of project DREAM,  
18 shall assist the superintendent in providing appropriate and necessary  
19 technical support and assistance to the school districts participating  
20 in project DREAM.

21       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 12.**        (1) The superintendent shall adopt rules  
22 as necessary under chapter 34.05 RCW to implement the provisions of  
23 sections 1 through 10 of this act.

24       (2) The respective agencies under section 11 of this act shall  
25 adopt rules as necessary under chapter 34.05 RCW to implement section  
26 11 of this act.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 13.**        This act shall take effect when the  
2 superintendent of public instruction receives funds made available for  
3 the purposes of this act and only if such funds are received by June  
4 30, 1993.

5        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 14.**        If any provision of this act or its  
6 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
7 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
8 persons or circumstances is not affected.

9        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 15.**        Sections 1 through 12 of this act are  
10 each added to chapter 28A.630 RCW.