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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1777**

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**State of Washington**

**55th Legislature**

**1997 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Huff, H. Sommers, Alexander, Benson, Clements, Wensman and O'Brien; by request of Office of Financial Management)

Read first time 03/04/97.

1 AN ACT Relating to modifying the timelines for development and  
2 implementation of the student assessment system; reenacting and  
3 amending RCW 28A.630.885; repealing 1995 c 335 s 803 (uncodified);  
4 providing an expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.630.885 and 1995 c 335 s 505 and 1995 c 209 s 1  
7 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

8 (1) The Washington commission on student learning is hereby  
9 established. The primary purposes of the commission are to identify  
10 the knowledge and skills all public school students need to know and be  
11 able to do based on the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210, to  
12 develop student assessment and school accountability systems, to review  
13 current school district data reporting requirements and make  
14 recommendations on what data is necessary for the purposes of  
15 accountability and meeting state information needs, and to take other  
16 steps necessary to develop a performance-based education system. The  
17 commission shall include three members of the state board of education,  
18 three members appointed by the governor before July 1, 1992, and five  
19 members appointed no later than June 1, 1993, by the governor elected

1 in the November 1992 election. The governor shall appoint a chair from  
2 the commission members, and fill any vacancies in gubernatorial  
3 appointments that may occur. The state board of education shall fill  
4 any vacancies of state board of education appointments that may occur.  
5 In making the appointments, educators, business leaders, and parents  
6 shall be represented, and nominations from state-wide education,  
7 business, and parent organizations shall be requested. Efforts shall  
8 be made to ensure that the commission reflects the racial and ethnic  
9 diversity of the state's K-12 student population and that the major  
10 geographic regions in the state are represented. Appointees shall be  
11 qualified individuals who are supportive of educational restructuring,  
12 who have a positive record of service, and who will devote sufficient  
13 time to the responsibilities of the commission to ensure that the  
14 objectives of the commission are achieved.

15 (2) The commission shall establish advisory committees. Membership  
16 of the advisory committees shall include, but not necessarily be  
17 limited to, professionals from the office of the superintendent of  
18 public instruction and the state board of education, and other state  
19 and local educational practitioners and student assessment specialists.

20 (3) The commission, with the assistance of the advisory committees,  
21 shall:

22 (a) Develop essential academic learning requirements based on the  
23 student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210. Essential academic learning  
24 requirements shall be developed, to the extent possible, for each of  
25 the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210. Goals one and two shall  
26 be considered primary. Essential academic learning requirements for  
27 RCW 28A.150.210(1), goal one, and the mathematics component of RCW  
28 28A.150.210(2), goal two, shall be completed no later than March 1,  
29 1995. Essential academic learning requirements that incorporate the  
30 remainder of RCW 28A.150.210 (2), (3), and (4), goals two, three, and  
31 four, shall be completed no later than March 1, 1996. To the maximum  
32 extent possible, the commission shall integrate goal four and the  
33 knowledge and skill areas in the other goals in the development of the  
34 essential academic learning requirements;

35 (b)(i) The commission shall present to the state board of education  
36 and superintendent of public instruction a state-wide academic  
37 assessment system for use in the elementary, middle, and high school  
38 years designed to determine if each student has mastered the essential  
39 academic learning requirements identified in (a) of this subsection.

1 The academic assessment system shall include a variety of assessment  
2 methods, including criterion-referenced and performance-based measures  
3 (~~((that are criterion-referenced))~~). Performance standards for  
4 determining if a student has successfully completed an assessment shall  
5 be initially determined by the commission in consultation with the  
6 advisory committees required in subsection (2) of this section.

7 (ii) The assessment system shall be designed so that the results  
8 under the assessment system are used by educators as tools to evaluate  
9 instructional practices, and to initiate appropriate educational  
10 support for students who have not mastered the essential academic  
11 learning requirements at the appropriate periods in the student's  
12 educational development.

13 (iii) Assessments measuring the essential academic learning  
14 requirements developed for RCW 28A.150.210(1)(~~(goal one)~~) and the  
15 mathematics component of RCW 28A.150.210(2)(~~(goal two)~~) referred to  
16 in this section as reading, writing, communications, and mathematics  
17 shall be ((initially implemented by the state board of education and  
18 superintendent of public instruction no later than the 1996-97 school  
19 year)) developed and initially implemented by the commission before  
20 transferring the assessment system to the superintendent of public  
21 instruction on June 30, 1999. The elementary assessments for reading,  
22 writing, communications, and mathematics shall be available for use by  
23 school districts no later than the 1996-97 school year, the middle  
24 school assessment no later than the 1997-98 school year, and the high  
25 school assessment no later than the 1998-99 school year, unless the  
26 legislature takes action to delay or prevent implementation of the  
27 assessment system and essential academic learning requirements.  
28 Assessments measuring the essential academic learning requirements  
29 developed for science component of RCW 28A.150.210 (2)(~~(3), and (4),~~  
30 goals two, three, and four, shall be initially implemented by the state  
31 board of education and superintendent of public instruction no later  
32 than the 1998-99 school year,)) at the middle school and high school  
33 levels shall be available for use by districts no later than the 1998-  
34 99 school year unless the legislature takes action to delay or prevent  
35 implementation of the assessment system and essential academic learning  
36 requirements.

37 The completed assessments for reading, writing, communications,  
38 mathematics, and science, and assessments still in development, shall  
39 be transferred to the superintendent of public instruction by June 30,

1 1999. After June 30, 1999, the superintendent of public instruction  
2 shall continue the development of the elementary science assessment.  
3 The assessment shall be available for use by districts no later than  
4 the 2001-02 school year.

5 The superintendent of public instruction and the commission on  
6 student learning shall continue the development of assessments for  
7 history, civics, geography, health, fitness, and the arts. By December  
8 15, 1997, the commission on student learning shall recommend to the  
9 appropriate committees of the legislature a timeline for the  
10 implementation of the middle and high school assessments in civics,  
11 geography, history, health, fitness, and the arts. Before the adoption  
12 of the assessments for use in school districts, the superintendent of  
13 public instruction shall present the assessments to the education  
14 committees of the house of representatives and the senate. Upon  
15 review, the education committees of the house of representatives and  
16 the senate shall make a recommendation to the legislature whether  
17 participation in the assessment will be optional or mandatory.

18 To the maximum extent possible, the commission shall integrate  
19 knowledge and skill areas in development of the assessments.

20 (iv) Assessments for goals three and four of RCW 28A.150.210 shall  
21 be integrated in the essential academic learning requirements and  
22 assessments for goals one and two. Before the 1997-98 school year, the  
23 elementary assessment system in reading, writing, communications, and  
24 mathematics shall be optional. School districts that desire to  
25 participate before the 1997-98 school year shall notify the commission  
26 on student learning in a manner determined by the commission.  
27 Beginning in the 1997-98 school year, school districts shall be  
28 required to participate in the elementary assessment system for  
29 reading, writing, communications, and mathematics. Before the 2000-  
30 ((2001)) 01 school year, participation by school districts in the  
31 middle school and high school assessment system for reading, writing,  
32 communications, mathematics, and science shall be optional. School  
33 districts that desire to participate before the 2000-((2001)) 01 school  
34 year shall notify the ((superintendent of public instruction))  
35 commission on student learning in a manner determined by the  
36 ((superintendent)) commission on student learning. Beginning in the  
37 2000-((2001)) 01 school year, all school districts shall be required to  
38 participate in the assessment system for reading, writing,  
39 communications, mathematics, and science.

1       (v) ~~The ((state board of education and superintendent of public~~  
2 ~~instruction)) commission on student learning may modify the essential~~  
3 ~~academic learning requirements and ((academic assessment system)) the~~  
4 ~~assessments for reading, writing, communications, mathematics, and~~  
5 ~~science, as needed, ((in subsequent school years)) before June 30,~~  
6 ~~1999. The commission shall, upon request, provide opportunities for~~  
7 ~~the education committees of the house of representatives and the senate~~  
8 ~~to review the assessments and proposed modifications to the essential~~  
9 ~~academic learning requirements before the modifications are adopted.~~

10       (vi) The commission shall develop assessments that are directly  
11 related to the essential academic learning requirements, and are not  
12 biased toward persons with different learning styles, racial or ethnic  
13 backgrounds, or on the basis of gender;

14       (c) After June 30, 2005, if a determination is made by the state  
15 board of education that the high school assessment system has been  
16 implemented and that it is sufficiently reliable and valid, successful  
17 completion of the high school assessments shall ~~((lead to a certificate~~  
18 ~~of mastery. The certificate of mastery shall be obtained by most~~  
19 ~~students at about the age of sixteen, and is evidence that the student~~  
20 ~~has successfully mastered the essential academic learning requirements~~  
21 ~~during his or her educational career. The certificate of mastery shall~~  
22 ~~be required for graduation but shall not be the only requirement for~~  
23 ~~graduation. The commission shall make recommendations to the state~~  
24 ~~board of education regarding the relationship between the certificate~~  
25 ~~of mastery and high school graduation requirements. Upon achieving the~~  
26 ~~certificate of mastery,)) be required for graduation but shall not be~~  
27 ~~the only requirement for graduation. The high school assessment system~~  
28 ~~shall be administered to students at about the age of sixteen. The~~  
29 ~~results of the high school assessments shall be included on each~~  
30 ~~student's high school diploma. Schools shall provide students with the~~  
31 ~~opportunity ((to continue)) to pursue career and educational objectives~~  
32 through educational pathways that emphasize integration of academic and  
33 vocational education. Educational pathways may include, but are not  
34 limited to, programs such as work-based learning, school-to-work  
35 transition, tech prep, vocational-technical education, running start,  
36 and preparation for technical college, community college, or university  
37 education;

1 (d) Consider methods to address the unique needs of special  
2 education students when developing the assessments in (b) and (c) of  
3 this subsection;

4 (e) Consider methods to address the unique needs of highly capable  
5 students when developing the assessments in (b) and (c) of this  
6 subsection;

7 (f) Develop recommendations on the time, support, and resources,  
8 including technical assistance, needed by schools and school districts  
9 to help students achieve the essential academic learning requirements.  
10 These recommendations shall include an estimate for the legislature,  
11 superintendent of public instruction, and governor on the expected cost  
12 of implementing the academic assessment system;

13 (g) Develop recommendations for consideration by the higher  
14 education coordinating board for adopting college and university  
15 entrance requirements for public school students that are consistent  
16 with the essential academic learning requirements and ~~((the certificate  
17 of mastery))~~ performance on the high school assessments in reading,  
18 writing, communications, mathematics, and science;

19 (h) Review current school district data reporting requirements for  
20 the purposes of accountability and meeting state information needs.  
21 The commission on student learning shall report recommendations to the  
22 joint select committee on education restructuring by September 15,  
23 1996, on:

24 (i) What data is necessary to compare how school districts are  
25 performing before the essential academic learning requirements and the  
26 assessment system are implemented with how school districts are  
27 performing after the essential academic learning requirements and the  
28 assessment system are implemented; and

29 (ii) What data is necessary pertaining to school district reports  
30 under the accountability systems developed by the commission on student  
31 learning under this section;

32 (i) ~~((By June 30, 1999,))~~ Recommend to the legislature, governor,  
33 state board of education, and superintendent of public instruction:

34 (i) A state-wide accountability system to monitor and evaluate  
35 accurately and fairly the level of learning occurring in individual  
36 schools and school districts. ~~((The accountability system shall be  
37 designed to recognize the characteristics of the student population of  
38 schools and school districts such as gender, race, ethnicity,  
39 socioeconomic status, and other factors.))~~ The accountability system

1 must assess each school individually against its own baseline, schools  
2 with similar characteristics, and schools state-wide. The system shall  
3 include school-site, school district, and state-level accountability  
4 reports;

5 (ii) A school assistance program to help schools and school  
6 districts that are having difficulty helping students meet the  
7 essential academic learning requirements as measured by performance on  
8 the elementary, middle school, and high school assessments in reading,  
9 writing, communications, mathematics, and science;

10 (iii) A system to intervene in schools and school districts in  
11 which significant numbers of students persistently fail to learn the  
12 essential academic learning requirements or meet the standards  
13 established for the elementary, middle school, and high school  
14 assessments in reading, writing, communications, mathematics, and  
15 science; and

16 (iv) An awards program to provide incentives to school staff to  
17 help their students learn the essential academic learning requirements,  
18 with each school being assessed individually against its own baseline,  
19 schools with similar characteristics, and the state-wide average.  
20 Incentives shall be based on the rate of percentage change of students  
21 achieving the essential academic learning requirements and progress on  
22 meeting the state-wide average. School staff shall determine how the  
23 awards will be spent.

24 ~~((It is the intent of the legislature to begin implementation of~~  
25 ~~programs in this subsection (3)(i) on September 1, 2000;))~~

26 The commission shall make recommendations regarding a state-wide  
27 accountability system for reading in grades kindergarten through four  
28 by November 1, 1997. Recommendations for an accountability system in  
29 the other subject areas and grade levels shall be made no later than  
30 June 30, 1999;

31 (j) Report annually by December 1st to the legislature, the  
32 governor, the superintendent of public instruction, and the state board  
33 of education on the progress, findings, and recommendations of the  
34 commission; and

35 (k) Make recommendations to the legislature and take other actions  
36 necessary or desirable to help students meet the student learning  
37 goals.

1 (4) The commission shall coordinate its activities with the state  
2 board of education and the office of the superintendent of public  
3 instruction.

4 (5) The commission shall seek advice broadly from the public and  
5 all interested educational organizations in the conduct of its work,  
6 including holding periodic regional public hearings.

7 (6) The commission shall select an entity to provide staff support  
8 and the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
9 provide administrative oversight and be the fiscal agent for the  
10 commission. The commission may direct the office of the superintendent  
11 of public instruction to enter into subcontracts, within the  
12 commission's resources, with school districts, teachers, higher  
13 education faculty, state agencies, business organizations, and other  
14 individuals and organizations to assist the commission in its  
15 deliberations.

16 (7) Members of the commission shall be reimbursed for travel  
17 expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

18 (8) By September 30, 1997, the commission on student learning, the  
19 state board of education, and the superintendent of public instruction  
20 shall jointly make recommendations to the education committees of the  
21 house of representatives and the senate regarding the connection  
22 between the high school assessments and high school graduation  
23 requirements.

24 In preparing recommendations, the commission on student learning  
25 shall convene an ad hoc working group to address the following  
26 questions:

27 (a) What type of document shall be used to identify student  
28 performance and achievement during the student's educational career and  
29 how will the document be described?

30 (b) Should students be required to pass one or more of the high  
31 school assessments to graduate? If yes, should the students be  
32 required to pass the high school assessments in all content areas, or  
33 only in select content areas?

34 (c) How will the criteria for establishing the standards for  
35 passing scores on the assessments be determined?

36 (d) What timeline should be used in phasing-in the assessments as  
37 a graduation requirement?

38 (e) What options may be used in demonstrating how the results of  
39 the assessments will be displayed in a way that is meaningful to

1 students, parents, institutions of higher education, and potential  
2 employers?

3 (f) Are there other or additional methods by which the assessments  
4 could be used to identify achievement such as endorsements, standards  
5 of proficiency, merit badges, or levels of achievement?

6 (g) Should the assessments be used to satisfy college or university  
7 entrance criteria for public school students? If yes, how should these  
8 methods be phased-in?

9 (9) The ad hoc working group shall report its recommendations to  
10 the commission on student learning by June 15, 1997. The commission  
11 shall report the ad hoc working group's recommendations to the  
12 education committees of the house of representatives and the senate by  
13 July 15, 1997. Final recommendations shall be presented to the  
14 education committees of the house of representatives and the senate by  
15 September 30, 1997.

16 (10) This section expires June 30, 1999.

17 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. 1995 c 335 s 803 (uncodified) is repealed.

18 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. This act is necessary for the immediate  
19 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
20 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
21 immediately.

--- END ---