

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## EHB 2910

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Requiring a study of environmental, natural science, wildlife, forestry, and agriculture education.

**Sponsors:** By Representatives Quall, Talcott, P. Sullivan, Shabro, Santos, Hunt, Anderson and Kenney.

**House Committee on Education**

**Senate Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education**

### **Background:**

Environmental education teaches about science, conservation, and natural resources with an emphasis on solving the problems of human adaptation to the environment.

In addition to instruction provided in schools, many organizations and agencies offer environmental education programs: nature centers, zoos, aquariums, city and county departments of parks and recreation, non-profit organizations such as the Audubon Society and the Sierra Club, and state agencies such as the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Natural Resources. The Environmental Education Association of Washington (EEAW) is a statewide non-profit organization of educators that offers training, materials, and advocacy for high quality environmental education.

In 2005, the EEAW received a grant from a private foundation to develop a comprehensive environmental education plan for Washington. The EEAW intends that the comprehensive plan incorporate available research on how environmental education promotes career exploration for students, can be used to meet graduation requirements, or assists underserved youth.

### **Summary:**

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) must conduct an environmental, natural science, wildlife, forestry, and agriculture education study in partnership with public and private entities that promote quality environmental education experiences. The study must provide empirical evidence, exemplary models, and recommendations about career development, service learning, graduation requirements, underserved youth, and professional development for community-based service organizations or state and local agencies. The study will provide findings and recommendations useful to the Washington state comprehensive environmental education plan, a public-private endeavor intended to ensure quality outdoor environmental education opportunities for every student, family, and community in Washington.

The OSPI will provide an interim update to the Legislature by December 1, 2006, and must complete the study no later than October 1, 2007.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

House	79	19
Senate	41	4

**Effective:** June 7, 2006