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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2695**

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**State of Washington**

**54th Legislature**

**1996 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Brumsickle and B. Thomas; by request of Joint Select Committee on Education Restructuring, Board of Education and Commission on Student Learning)

Read first time 02/02/96.

1 AN ACT Relating to modifying the timelines for the development and  
2 implementation of the student assessment system; amending RCW  
3 28A.630.952; amending 1993 c 336 s 1010 (uncodified); reenacting and  
4 amending RCW 28A.630.885; adding a new section to chapter 28A.305 RCW;  
5 repealing 1995 c 335 s 803 (uncodified); repealing 1995 c 335 s 804  
6 (uncodified); repealing 1994 c 245 s 16 (uncodified); and providing  
7 expiration dates.

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

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

11 (1) The Washington commission on student learning is hereby  
12 established. The primary purposes of the commission are to identify  
13 the knowledge and skills all public school students need to know and be  
14 able to do based on the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210, to  
15 develop student assessment and school accountability systems, to review  
16 current school district data reporting requirements and make  
17 recommendations on what data is necessary for the purposes of  
18 accountability and meeting state information needs, and to take other  
19 steps necessary to develop a performance-based education system. The

1 commission shall include three members of the state board of education,  
2 three members appointed by the governor before July 1, 1992, and five  
3 members appointed no later than June 1, 1993, by the governor elected  
4 in the November 1992 election. The governor shall appoint a chair from  
5 the commission members, and fill any vacancies in gubernatorial  
6 appointments that may occur. The state board of education shall fill  
7 any vacancies of state board of education appointments that may occur.  
8 In making the appointments, educators, business leaders, and parents  
9 shall be represented, and nominations from state-wide education,  
10 business, and parent organizations shall be requested. Efforts shall  
11 be made to ensure that the commission reflects the racial and ethnic  
12 diversity of the state's K-12 student population and that the major  
13 geographic regions in the state are represented. Appointees shall be  
14 qualified individuals who are supportive of educational restructuring,  
15 who have a positive record of service, and who will devote sufficient  
16 time to the responsibilities of the commission to ensure that the  
17 objectives of the commission are achieved.

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

23 (3) The commission, with the assistance of the advisory committees,  
24 shall:

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

1 (b)(i) The commission shall present to the state board of education  
2 and superintendent of public instruction a state-wide academic  
3 assessment system for use in the elementary, middle, and high school  
4 years designed to determine if each student has mastered the essential  
5 academic learning requirements identified in (a) of this subsection.  
6 The academic assessment system shall include a variety of assessment  
7 methods that are criterion referenced, including performance-based  
8 measures (~~((that are criterion referenced))~~). Performance standards for  
9 determining if a student has successfully completed an assessment shall  
10 be initially determined by the commission in consultation with the  
11 advisory committees required in subsection (2) of this section.

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

18 (iii)(A) Assessments measuring the essential academic learning  
19 requirements developed for RCW 28A.150.210(1), goal one, and the  
20 mathematics component of RCW 28A.150.210(2), goal two, shall be  
21 (~~((initially implemented by the state board of education and  
22 superintendent of public instruction no later than the 1996-97 school  
23 year))~~) developed and initially implemented by the commission before  
24 transferring the assessment system to the superintendent of public  
25 instruction. For goal one and the mathematics component of goal two,  
26 the elementary assessment shall be available for use by districts no  
27 later than the 1996-97 school year, the middle grades assessment no  
28 later than the 1997-98 school year, and the high school assessment no  
29 later than the 1998-99 school year, unless the legislature takes action  
30 to delay or prevent implementation of the assessment system and  
31 essential academic learning requirements. The assessment system shall  
32 be transferred to the superintendent of public instruction no later  
33 than June 30, 1999, for continued implementation.

34 (B) Assessments measuring the essential academic learning  
35 requirements developed for the remaining components of RCW 28A.150.210  
36 (2), (~~((3), and (4),))~~ goal((s)) two, (~~((three, and four,))~~ shall be  
37 ((initially implemented by the state board of education and)) developed  
38 and initially implemented by the commission before transferring the  
39 assessments to the superintendent of public instruction. The

1 assessments for the remaining components of goal two shall not include  
2 state-level assessments in the elementary grades. However, the  
3 commission shall develop classroom-based assessments for voluntary use  
4 in elementary grades. The commission shall not include state-level  
5 assessments of the art, health, and fitness components. However, the  
6 commission shall develop classroom-based assessments in art, health,  
7 and fitness for voluntary use by schools.

8 The commission and the state board of education shall make  
9 recommendations to the legislature regarding assessment of goal two in  
10 the elementary grades and the art, health, and fitness assessments in  
11 accordance with section 2 of this act.

12 Unless the legislature takes action to delay or prevent  
13 implementation of the assessment system and essential academic learning  
14 requirements, the:

15 (I) Middle school and high school science assessments shall be  
16 available for use by districts no later than the 1998-99 school year;

17 (II) Middle and high school history, civics, and geography  
18 assessments shall be available for use by districts no later than the  
19 1999-2000 school year; and

20 (III) Classroom-based assessments for elementary science shall be  
21 available for use by districts no later than the 1998-99 school year.  
22 The other classroom-based assessments shall be available for use by  
23 districts no later than the 1999-2000 school year.

24 The assessments shall be transferred to the superintendent of  
25 public instruction 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)) June  
28 30, 1999, for continued implementation.

29 (C) The assessments of RCW 28A.150.210 (3) and (4), goals three and  
30 four, shall be integrated in the assessments developed for goals one  
31 and two.

32 (D) To the maximum extent possible, the commission shall integrate  
33 knowledge and skill areas in development of the assessments.

34 (E) The commission shall work closely with the superintendent of  
35 public instruction and the state board of education during the  
36 development and initial implementation of the assessment system.

37 (iv) Before the 2000-2001 school year, participation by school  
38 districts in the assessment system shall be optional. School districts  
39 that desire to participate before the 2000-2001 school year shall

1 notify the commission on student learning or the superintendent of  
2 public instruction, as appropriate, in a manner determined by the  
3 superintendent. Beginning in the 2000-2001 school year, all school  
4 districts shall be required to participate in the ((assessment system))  
5 state-level assessments for reading, writing, communications, and  
6 mathematics. School districts shall not be required to participate in  
7 the middle and high school state-level assessments for science,  
8 history, geography, and civics until the state board of education  
9 recommends that school districts should be required to participate in  
10 these assessments and the legislature adopts legislation to make these  
11 assessments mandatory.

12 (v) The commission on student learning may modify the essential  
13 academic learning requirements and the assessments, as needed, on or  
14 before June 30, 1999. The state board of education ((and  
15 superintendent of public instruction)) may modify the essential  
16 academic learning requirements ((and academic assessment system)), as  
17 needed, ((in subsequent school years)) after June 30, 1999, and the  
18 superintendent of public instruction may modify the academic assessment  
19 system, as needed, after June 30, 1999.

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

24 (c) After a determination is made by the state board of education  
25 that the high school assessment system has been implemented and that it  
26 is sufficiently reliable and valid, successful completion of the high  
27 school assessment shall lead to a certificate of mastery. The  
28 certificate of mastery shall be obtained by most students at about the  
29 age of sixteen, and is evidence that the student has successfully  
30 mastered the essential academic learning requirements during his or her  
31 educational career. ~~((The certificate of mastery shall be required for~~  
32 ~~graduation but shall not be the only requirement for graduation. The~~  
33 ~~commission shall make recommendations to the state board of education~~  
34 ~~regarding the relationship between the certificate of mastery and high~~  
35 ~~school graduation requirements.))~~ The state board of education and the  
36 commission shall make recommendations to the legislature regarding  
37 whether the certificate of mastery should be a graduation requirement.  
38 The certificate of mastery shall not be a state-wide graduation  
39 requirement until legislation is adopted directing the state board to

1 make it a state-wide requirement. Upon achieving the certificate of  
2 mastery, schools shall provide students with the opportunity to  
3 continue to pursue career and educational objectives through  
4 educational pathways that emphasize integration of academic and  
5 vocational education. Educational pathways may include, but are not  
6 limited to, programs such as work-based learning, school-to-work  
7 transition, tech prep, vocational-technical education, running start,  
8 and preparation for technical college, community college, or university  
9 education;

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

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

16 (f) Develop recommendations on the time, support, and resources,  
17 including technical assistance, needed by schools and school districts  
18 to help students achieve the essential academic learning requirements.  
19 These recommendations shall include an estimate for the legislature,  
20 superintendent of public instruction, and governor on the expected cost  
21 of implementing the academic assessment system;

22 (g) Develop recommendations for consideration by the higher  
23 education coordinating board for adopting college and university  
24 entrance requirements for public school students that are consistent  
25 with the essential academic learning requirements and the certificate  
26 of mastery;

27 (h) Review current school district data reporting requirements for  
28 the purposes of accountability and meeting state information needs.  
29 The commission on student learning shall report recommendations to the  
30 joint select committee on education restructuring by September 15,  
31 1996, on:

32 (i) What data is necessary to compare how school districts are  
33 performing before the essential academic learning requirements and the  
34 assessment system are implemented with how school districts are  
35 performing after the essential academic learning requirements and the  
36 assessment system are implemented; and

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

1 (i) By June 30, 1999, recommend to the legislature, governor, state  
2 board of education, and superintendent of public instruction:

3 (i) A state-wide accountability system to monitor and evaluate  
4 accurately and fairly the level of learning occurring in individual  
5 schools and school districts. The accountability system shall be  
6 designed to recognize the characteristics of the student population of  
7 schools and school districts such as gender, race, ethnicity,  
8 socioeconomic status, and other factors. The system shall include  
9 school-site, school district, and state-level accountability reports;

10 (ii) A school assistance program to help schools and school  
11 districts that are having difficulty helping students meet the  
12 essential academic learning requirements;

13 (iii) A system to intervene in schools and school districts in  
14 which significant numbers of students persistently fail to learn the  
15 essential academic learning requirements; 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 Incentives shall be based on the rate of percentage change of students  
20 achieving the essential academic learning requirements. School staff  
21 shall determine how the awards will be spent.

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

24 (j) Report annually by December 1st to the legislature, the  
25 governor, the superintendent of public instruction, and the state board  
26 of education on the progress, findings, and recommendations of the  
27 commission; and

28 (k) Make recommendations to the legislature and take other actions  
29 necessary or desirable to help students meet the student learning  
30 goals.

31 (4) The commission shall coordinate its activities with the state  
32 board of education and the office of the superintendent of public  
33 instruction.

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

37 (6) The commission shall select an entity to provide staff support  
38 and the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
39 provide administrative oversight and be the fiscal agent for the

1 commission. The commission may direct the office of the superintendent  
2 of public instruction to enter into subcontracts, within the  
3 commission's resources, with school districts, teachers, higher  
4 education faculty, state agencies, business organizations, and other  
5 individuals and organizations to assist the commission in its  
6 deliberations.

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

9 (8) This section expires June 30, 1999.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.305  
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 (1) The state board of education and the commission on student  
13 learning shall analyze issues and make recommendations associated with  
14 making the certificate of mastery, or components of the certificate, a  
15 graduation requirement. The board and commission shall consider other  
16 or additional methods in which the assessments could be used to raise  
17 the expectations of schools and students, including using the  
18 assessments: (a) As admission criteria for public school students into  
19 technical training programs, internships, apprenticeships, running  
20 start, and colleges and universities; (b) for endorsements on a  
21 diploma; or (c) for other purposes. Recommendations also shall be  
22 provided regarding the appropriate phase-in of different approaches.

23 The board and commission also shall consider the use of  
24 endorsements in art, health, and fitness and the need to maintain  
25 current graduation requirements in these subject areas.

26 The board and commission shall report to the legislature no later  
27 than December 31, 1996, with their finding and recommendations.

28 (2) The state board of education shall make recommendations to the  
29 legislature no later than December 1, 2001, regarding whether science,  
30 history, civics, geography, art, health, and fitness should be required  
31 in the state-mandated elementary assessments created in RCW  
32 28A.630.885. Recommendations also shall be provided regarding whether  
33 to establish mandatory state-level assessments in art, health, and  
34 fitness in the middle and high school grades.

35 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.630.952 and 1995 c 335 s 506 are each amended to  
36 read as follows:

1 (1) In addition to the duties in RCW 28A.630.951, the joint select  
2 committee on education restructuring shall review all laws pertaining  
3 to K-12 public education and to educator preparation and certification  
4 with the intent of identifying laws that inhibit the achievement of the  
5 new system of performance-based education. The select committee shall  
6 report to the legislature by November 15, 1994. The laws pertaining to  
7 home schooling and private schools shall not be reviewed in this study.

8 (2) The joint select committee on education restructuring shall  
9 review the school district data reporting requirements for the purposes  
10 of accountability and meeting state information needs reported by the  
11 commission on student learning under RCW 28A.630.885. The joint select  
12 committee shall report its recommendations to the legislature by  
13 January ((1996)) 1997.

14 (3) This section expires December 1, 2001.

15 **Sec. 4.** 1993 c 336 s 1010 (uncodified) is amended to read as  
16 follows:

17 Sections 1001 ((~~through~~)), 1002, 1004, and 1005 of this act shall  
18 expire December 1, 2001.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** 1995 c 335 s 803 (uncodified) is repealed.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The following acts or parts of acts are each  
21 repealed:

22 (1) 1995 c 335 s 804 (uncodified); and

23 (2) 1994 c 245 s 16 (uncodified).

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