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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1659**

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**State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2005 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Santos, McCoy, Pettigrew, Kenney, Hunter, Chase, Dickerson, Simpson and Upthegrove)

READ FIRST TIME 03/07/05.

1            AN ACT Relating to equitable opportunity for all; creating new  
2 sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    (1) The legislature finds that the primary  
5 goal underlying state and federal academic accountability systems is to  
6 ensure all children are provided with an equal opportunity to obtain a  
7 high-quality education.    The legislature also finds that federal  
8 accountability under the no child left behind act of 2001 is measured  
9 by adequate yearly progress toward specified goals as demonstrated by  
10 the number of students who meet or exceed the standard on the  
11 Washington assessment of student learning.    The legislature further  
12 finds that failure to make adequate yearly progress is most apparent  
13 with students of color and students from low-income households.

14            (2) The legislature recognizes that research from the office of the  
15 superintendent of public instruction concludes that low-income and  
16 minority students encounter fewer opportunities to learn, inadequate  
17 instruction and support, and lower expectations from their schools and  
18 teachers, and that schools are not sufficiently inclusive of all  
19 cultures represented in the state's public schools.    The legislature

1 also recognizes that the multiethnic think tank coordinated within the  
2 office of the superintendent of public instruction has identified five  
3 factors contributing to inequitable education: (a) The existing  
4 cultural paradigm; (b) the biases of the testing instruments; (c)  
5 socioeconomic disparities; (d) postsecondary education and work force  
6 ramifications; and (e) insufficient data collection and reporting.

7 (3) The legislature further recognizes that the national  
8 association of state boards of education reports that: (a)  
9 Disproportionate numbers of students of color are placed in special  
10 education and other lower-track programs; (b) students of color get a  
11 lower-level curriculum; (c) most students do not receive a full  
12 curriculum that presents a complete picture of diverse contributions to  
13 the American way of life; (d) diverse learning styles are not addressed  
14 in many schools; and (e) many schools do not encourage students to  
15 engage in cultural inquiry based on shared values.

16 (4) The legislature finds that the academic achievement gap is the  
17 result of many factors, including poverty, educational opportunity of  
18 parents, recent immigration, family mobility, societal and  
19 institutional bias, and the fact that English is not the primary  
20 language in many homes. The legislature finds that in order to close  
21 the achievement gap, the educational system will need to change how it  
22 approaches learning and teaching through a greater understanding of the  
23 impact of language, culture, race, and poverty on student achievement.  
24 The legislature declares that closing the achievement gap will require  
25 a comprehensive and coordinated approach designed to: (a) Create more  
26 learning environments that are intolerant of racism and exclusion and  
27 in which high expectations are held for all students; (b) develop  
28 curricula and teaching practices that recognize the differences in  
29 ethnicity, language, and culture; and (c) require that teacher training  
30 and professional development programs include opportunities to learn  
31 cultural responsiveness skills and effective instructional strategies  
32 that are successful in raising the academic achievement of  
33 traditionally underachieving students.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The joint select committee on equitable  
35 opportunity for all is created. The committee shall consist of two  
36 members of each major caucus of the senate, representing the committees  
37 on early learning, K-12 and higher education and on human services and

1 corrections, appointed by the president of the senate; and two members  
2 of each major caucus of the house of representatives, representing the  
3 committees on education and on juvenile justice and family law,  
4 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives. Every effort  
5 shall be made to ensure that members of the joint select committee are  
6 appointed by the effective date of this section.

7 (2) The joint select committee shall consult with the communities  
8 of color stakeholders, the multiethnic think tank, the special  
9 education coalition, and the Washington state association on  
10 multicultural education, and may form one or more advisory committees  
11 that may include, but need not be limited to, representation from the  
12 Washington state commissions on African-American affairs, Asian Pacific  
13 American affairs, and Hispanic affairs, and the governor's office of  
14 Indian affairs. The committee shall determine what efforts, if any,  
15 currently exist to implement the following action steps:

16 (a) Add a fifth Washington learning goal to ensure culturally  
17 competent education;

18 (b) Infuse multicultural education goals into the existing four  
19 Washington state learning goals;

20 (c) Integrate multicultural and technological learning objectives  
21 in the Washington state essential academic learning requirements;

22 (d) Standardize the data collection, categorization, and reporting  
23 of all ethnic groups, including the disaggregation of data sets into  
24 discrete ethnic populations that provide the most accurate information  
25 about student achievement;

26 (e) Recruit and retain racial and ethnic minority staff and  
27 administration; and

28 (f) Require that professional development is culturally and  
29 linguistically responsive for all staff, administration, and others.

30 (3) The committee shall report its findings, by September 1, 2006,  
31 to the senate committee on early learning, K-12 and higher education,  
32 and the house of representatives committee on education. The report  
33 shall include a determination of the actions and resources necessary to  
34 complete the action steps in this section, including whether existing  
35 basic education moneys can be used and the amount of additional funding  
36 needed. The committee may make recommendations regarding the action  
37 steps and may develop other recommendations that support and elucidate  
38 the functionality of multicultural education and cultural competency in

1 meeting the goals of education. The report shall include a reasonable  
2 time frame for implementation that is prioritized based on existing  
3 efforts and the resources necessary for full implementation.

4 (4) The joint select committee shall receive staffing support from  
5 senate committee services and the office of program research.

6 (5) Legislative members of the joint select committee shall receive  
7 per diem and travel under RCW 44.04.120.

8 (6) This section expires April 1, 2007.

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