

---

SENATE BILL 6735

---

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Schmidt, Pridemore, Delvin, Rockefeller, Eide, Kohl-Welles and Esser

Read first time 01/19/2006. Referred to Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to studying environmental education; and creating  
2 a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The office of superintendent of public  
5 instruction shall conduct an environmental education study in  
6 partnership with public and private entities invested in strategies to  
7 reach every student, family, and community with quality environmental  
8 education experiences. The study shall provide empirical evidence,  
9 exemplary models, and recommendations focused on:

- 10 (a) Career development;
- 11 (b) Good citizenship as proven through service learning;
- 12 (c) Graduation requirements, specifically addressing senior  
13 culminating projects;
- 14 (d) Underserved youth and demographic groups; and
- 15 (e) Models of professional development for community-based service  
16 organizations including state and local agencies.

17 (2) The study in this section shall provide findings and  
18 recommendations useful to the Washington state comprehensive  
19 environmental education plan, a comprehensive public-private endeavor

1 to develop local and statewide strategies to ensure quality outdoor  
2 environmental education opportunities for every student, family, and  
3 community in Washington.

4 (3) By studying the concepts in this section, the study shall  
5 evaluate how environmental education benefits Washington's students,  
6 families, and communities. Outdoor environmental education provides  
7 relevant quality education set in real world contexts of the built,  
8 natural, cultural, social, and economic environments. It provides  
9 opportunities for direct natural experiences to help Washington's youth  
10 develop self-esteem and personal responsibility. Washington benefits  
11 from exemplary environmental education programs and public-private  
12 environmental education partnerships across the state including  
13 outdoor, agriculture, forestry, angling and hunting, cultural  
14 competency, natural resource, natural science, and wildlife education  
15 programs. The study will be useful in identifying outdoor  
16 environmental education opportunities for Washington's students,  
17 families, and communities.

18 (4) The office of superintendent of public instruction shall  
19 provide an interim update to the legislature by December 1, 2006, and  
20 shall complete the study no later than October 1, 2007.

--- END ---