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**SENATE BILL 5918**

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**State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2009 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Kauffman, King, McDermott, Holmquist, Hobbs, and McAuliffe

Read first time 02/06/09. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to paraeducator tutors; adding a new section to  
2 chapter 28A.400 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    (1) The legislature finds:

5            (a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction  
6 recognizes the accomplishments of classroom paraeducators to attain  
7 professional growth development standards in order to increase  
8 students' learning achievement; and

9            (b) There is a growing need to provide support for struggling  
10 students who have been identified as not meeting state academic  
11 standards. Highly trained paraeducators can have a significant impact  
12 on those students who fall short of grade level standards but do not  
13 meet the criteria to qualify for special education or Title I  
14 resources. Increasing the knowledge and skills of paraeducators will  
15 result in students reaching their highest potential.

16            (2) The purpose of this act is to develop standards for  
17 paraeducators to increase their knowledge of learning disabilities,  
18 addressing different learning styles, teaching strategies, and decoding  
19 skills that will result in a positive impact on student achievement.

1 The office of the superintendent of public instruction should develop  
2 the standards and the certification process for the paraeducators. The  
3 office of the superintendent of public instruction should develop  
4 professional development that can be delivered in many different ways,  
5 such as online and at the summer and winter institute, for the  
6 paraeducators to learn the standards and receive the certification.  
7 Those earning the certification would become paraeducator tutors.

8 (3) Incentives provided for in this act should be developed and  
9 recommended by the office of the superintendent of public instruction  
10 in the 2010 session for paraeducator tutors. Incentives used to pursue  
11 high quality professional development opportunities should result in  
12 providing assistance to students' learning needs and effectively help  
13 students meet challenging academic standards.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.400  
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules  
17 establishing paraeducator tutor certification requirements.  
18 Certification shall be for five-year periods.

19 (2) In order to maintain paraeducator tutor certification, a  
20 certificated paraeducator must enroll in additional professional  
21 development courses approved by the office of the superintendent of  
22 public instruction. The professional development courses will maximize  
23 the effectiveness of providing the resources for students to achieve  
24 state standards and reach their highest possible academic potential.

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