
SENATE BILL 5853

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senator Regala

Read first time 02/23/11. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to education programs for the prevention of child
2 abuse in public schools; adding a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW;
3 creating a new section; and repealing RCW 28A.230.080, 28A.300.150, and
4 28A.300.160.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the number of
7 children who have been found to be victims of abuse is unacceptable.
8 This victimization often leads adult survivors into struggles with
9 depression, alcohol and drug addiction, and other mental illnesses.
10 There is evidence that indicates effective abuse prevention and
11 personal safety education can be very valuable in efforts to reduce
12 incidents of abuse. The legislature intends to address this issue by
13 establishing guidelines for schools to integrate effective programs
14 that teach students skills to prevent abuse. Furthermore, the
15 legislature intends to involve communities and families in the work of
16 the schools to enhance the efforts to prevent child abuse.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
18 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction, in
2 consultation with professionals in the field of child abuse prevention
3 and interested organizations, shall establish a statewide child abuse
4 prevention program to be incorporated into existing programs at each
5 school. The child abuse prevention program must:

6 (a) Use proven research-based curricula found effective in the
7 prevention of child abuse;

8 (b) Be provided to all students in an age-appropriate manner;

9 (c) Include peer-to-peer prevention education;

10 (d) Assist schools with programs and in communications for parents
11 and community members;

12 (e) Identify public and private resources that can be of assistance
13 to schools in their prevention efforts; and

14 (f) Provide frameworks to schools to engage and partner with
15 community and parents on programs to prevent child abuse.

16 (2) The child abuse prevention program in subsection (1) of this
17 section shall be in place and made available to school districts by
18 January 1, 2011.

19 (3) School districts shall include in their audits with the office
20 of the superintendent of public instruction a report on the
21 implementation of this section in each school. The office of the
22 superintendent of public instruction shall provide a report of its
23 findings under this section to appropriate committees of the
24 legislature.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The following acts or parts of acts are each
26 repealed:

27 (1) RCW 28A.230.080 (Prevention of child abuse and neglect--Written
28 policy--Participation in and establishment of programs) and 1990 c 33
29 s 238 & 1987 c 489 s 6;

30 (2) RCW 28A.300.150 (Information on child abuse and neglect
31 prevention curriculum--Rules) and 2006 c 263 s 705, 1994 c 245 s 8, &
32 1987 c 489 s 2; and

33 (3) RCW 28A.300.160 (Development of coordinated primary prevention
34 program for child abuse and neglect--Office as lead agency) and 1995 c
35 399 s 21 & 1987 c 489 s 3.

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