
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2183

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives McCabe, Orwall, Dent, Senn, Caldier, Johnson, Fagan, Parker, Kagi, Gregerson, and Santos)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/16.

1 AN ACT Relating to a curriculum for the prevention of sexual
2 abuse for students; adding a new section to chapter 28A.230 RCW; and
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that every
6 child should experience emotional and physical development that is
7 free from abuse and neglect. In 2015, Washington child protective
8 services received reports screened in for investigation that alleged
9 the sexual abuse or sexual exploitation, or both, of two thousand six
10 hundred three children. Further, the legislature finds that most
11 sexual assaults are unreported. The legislature also finds that a
12 clear relationship exists between youth victimization and mental
13 health problems and delinquent behavior.

14 (2) The legislature finds that twenty-six states have enacted
15 Erin's laws. Erin's laws are intended to help children, teachers, and
16 parents identify sexual abuse, and to provide assistance, referral,
17 or resource information for children and families who are victims of
18 child sexual abuse. The legislation in these states requires the
19 study or development of age-appropriate child sexual abuse
20 identification and prevention.

1 (3) The legislature finds that the federal every student succeeds
2 act, P.L. 114-95, provides federal funding that can be used for the
3 implementation of programs required under Erin's laws.

4 (4) It is the intent of the legislature to adopt an Erin's law in
5 order to protect the children of Washington, one of the state's most
6 vulnerable populations.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) The Erin's law task force is established for the purpose of
10 creating and implementing a curriculum for the prevention of sexual
11 abuse for students from kindergarten through twelfth grade in the
12 state of Washington. The task force comprises:

13 (a) The director of the department of early learning or the
14 director's designee;

15 (b) The superintendent of public instruction or the
16 superintendent's designee;

17 (c) The attorney general or the attorney general's designee;

18 (d) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house
19 of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of
20 representatives;

21 (e) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the
22 senate, appointed by the president of the senate;

23 (f) One representative of a state association of principals;

24 (g) One teacher selected by the largest union of teachers in the
25 state;

26 (h) One teacher selected by the office of the superintendent of
27 public instruction; and

28 (i) One representative of a state association of school
29 counselors.

30 (2) The task force must choose or develop a model curriculum for
31 the prevention of sexual abuse for students from kindergarten through
32 twelfth grade and make implementation recommendations to the
33 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2016. The
34 model curriculum must:

35 (a) Be evidence-based;

36 (b) Be age-appropriate and culturally sensitive;

37 (c) Include a professional training component for administrators,
38 teachers, and other school staff on talking to students about child

1 sexual abuse prevention, the effects of sexual abuse on children,
2 handling disclosures, and mandatory reporting;

3 (d) Include a component that encourages parental involvement in
4 child sexual abuse prevention; and

5 (e) Allow school districts the flexibility to determine when and
6 how the curriculum is offered to students.

7 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
8 make the model curriculum available on its web site at no charge to
9 the school districts, and shall update the curriculum periodically.

10 (4) Each school district shall implement a curriculum for the
11 prevention of sexual abuse for students from kindergarten through
12 twelfth grade that meets the requirements in subsection (2) of this
13 section, beginning in the 2017-18 school year. Districts are
14 encouraged to adopt the Erin's law task force model curriculum.

15 (5) Each school district shall provide the parents or guardians
16 of each student with written notice of the opportunity to opt out of
17 the curriculum required under subsection (4) of this section.

18 (6) The superintendent of each school district shall designate
19 one of the district's staff with the responsibility for the
20 district's compliance with this section.

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