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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5265**

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**State of Washington**

**60th Legislature**

**2007 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators McAuliffe, Fairley, Eide, Kohl-Welles and Kline)

READ FIRST TIME 02/28/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to outdoor education and recreation; adding a new  
2 section to chapter 79A.05 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature to  
5 provide a large number of underserved children with quality  
6 opportunities to directly experience the natural world. It is the  
7 legislature's intent to create a program to improve children's overall  
8 academic performance, self-esteem, personal responsibility, community  
9 involvement, personal health, and understanding of nature. Further it  
10 is the intent of the legislature that the program empower local  
11 communities to engage children in outdoor education and recreation  
12 experiences.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 79A.05 RCW  
14 to read as follows:

15 (1) The outdoor education and recreation grant program is hereby  
16 created, subject to the availability of funds in the outdoor education  
17 and recreation account. The commission shall establish and implement  
18 the program by rule to provide opportunities for public agencies,

1 private nonprofit organizations, formal school programs, nonformal  
2 after-school programs, and community-based programs to receive grants  
3 from the account. Programs that provide outdoor education  
4 opportunities to schools shall be fully aligned with the state's  
5 essential academic learning requirements.

6 (2) The program shall be phased in beginning with the schools and  
7 students with the greatest needs in suburban, rural, and urban areas of  
8 the state. The program shall focus on students who qualify for free  
9 and reduced-price lunch, who are most likely to fail academically, or  
10 who have the greatest potential to drop out of school.

11 (3) The director shall set priorities and develop criteria for the  
12 awarding of grants to outdoor environmental, ecological, agricultural,  
13 or other natural resource-based education and recreation programs  
14 considering at least the following:

15 (a) Programs that contribute to the reduction of academic failure  
16 and dropout rates;

17 (b) Programs that make use of research-based, effective  
18 environmental, ecological, agricultural, or other natural resource-  
19 based education curriculum;

20 (c) Programs that contribute to healthy life styles through outdoor  
21 recreation and sound nutrition;

22 (d) Various Washington state parks as venues and use of the  
23 commission's personnel as a resource;

24 (e) Programs that maximize the number of participants that can be  
25 served;

26 (f) Programs that will commit matching and in-kind resources;

27 (g) Programs that create partnerships with public and private  
28 entities;

29 (h) Programs that provide children with opportunities to directly  
30 experience and understand nature and the natural world; and

31 (i) Programs that include ongoing program evaluation, assessment,  
32 and reporting of their effectiveness.

33 (4) The director shall create an advisory committee to assist and  
34 advise the commission in the development and administration of the  
35 outdoor education and recreation program. The director should solicit  
36 representation on the committee from the office of the superintendent  
37 of public instruction, the department of fish and wildlife, the  
38 business community, outdoor organizations with an interest in

1 education, and any others the commission deems sufficient to ensure a  
2 cross section of stakeholders. When the director creates such an  
3 advisory committee, its members shall be reimbursed from the outdoor  
4 education and recreation program account for travel expenses as  
5 provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

6 (5) The outdoor education and recreation program account is created  
7 in the custody of the state treasurer. Funds deposited in the outdoor  
8 education and recreation program account shall be transferred only to  
9 the commission to be used solely for the commission's outdoor education  
10 and recreation program purposes identified in this section including  
11 the administration of the program. The director may accept gifts,  
12 grants, donations, or moneys from any source for deposit in the outdoor  
13 education and recreation program account. Any public agency in this  
14 state may develop and implement outdoor education and recreation  
15 programs. The director may make grants to public agencies and contract  
16 with any public or private agency or person to develop and implement  
17 outdoor education and recreation programs. The outdoor education and  
18 recreation program account is subject to allotment procedures under  
19 chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for  
20 expenditures.

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