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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6429**

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**State of Washington**

**60th Legislature**

**2008 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Hargrove, Stevens, McAuliffe, and Carrell)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to analyzing school attendance and truancy;  
2 creating a new section; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The Washington state institute for  
5 public policy shall conduct an analysis of local practices regarding  
6 compulsory school attendance and truancy for children required to  
7 attend school under chapter 28A.225 RCW. The Washington state  
8 institute for public policy shall:

9 (a) Survey a geographically representative sample of school  
10 districts' actual expenditures in fiscal years 2005, 2006, 2007, and  
11 2008 to comply with RCW 28A.225.020, 28A.225.025, and 28A.225.030, as  
12 articulated by the school districts. Expenditures surveyed should  
13 include, but are not limited to: Expenditures related to the truancy  
14 petition process; case management; service of process and filing fees;  
15 mailing costs; truancy intervention or prevention programs and other  
16 direct services to children and parents; truancy boards;  
17 administration, staffing, and data tracking; and other costs identified  
18 by the school district associated with statutory compliance;

1 (b) Conduct a comprehensive analysis and evaluation of evidence-  
2 based, research-based, promising, and consensus-based truancy  
3 intervention and prevention programs. For the purposes of the study,  
4 truancy programs include, but are not limited to, those that are  
5 specifically intended to reduce the likelihood of children being truant  
6 and increase the likelihood of children remaining in school;

7 (c) Survey, by school district, the truancy prevention and  
8 intervention programs and services currently available and report gaps,  
9 if any, in the availability and accessibility of those programs and  
10 services throughout the state's school districts;

11 (d) Analyze the extent to which Washington's current programs are  
12 evidence-based, research-based, promising, or consensus-based programs;  
13 and

14 (e) Survey, by school district, the definitions of "absence" and  
15 "unexcused absence" used by the school district.

16 (2) In conducting its analysis in subsection (1) of this section,  
17 the Washington state institute for public policy may consult with  
18 employees and data systems of the office of the superintendent of  
19 public instruction and any educational service district or school  
20 district in Washington. The office of the superintendent of public  
21 instruction, each educational service district, and each school  
22 district shall cooperate with the Washington state institute for public  
23 policy to the extent necessary, including providing access to necessary  
24 data and administrative data systems.

25 (3) The Washington state institute for public policy shall also  
26 survey a geographically representative sample of the courts' actual  
27 expenditures in fiscal years 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 to comply with  
28 RCW 28A.225.020, 28A.225.025, and 28A.225.030, as articulated by the  
29 courts surveyed. The survey should include, but is not limited to,  
30 expenditures related to:

31 (a) Court intake and filings, including court clerks and truancy  
32 facilitators;

33 (b) Court hearings, including probation officers, judicial  
34 officers, prosecutors, and defense attorneys; and

35 (c) Other costs identified by the courts associated with statutory  
36 compliance.

37 (4) The Washington state institute for public policy shall also

1 include, in its analysis, the frequency of the use of contempt  
2 proceedings across the state and whether there are any barriers to the  
3 use of contempt proceedings.

4 (5) In conducting its analysis in subsection (3) of this section,  
5 the Washington state institute for public policy may consult with  
6 employees and data systems of the administrative office of the courts.  
7 The administrative office of the courts shall cooperate with the  
8 Washington state institute for public policy to the extent necessary,  
9 including providing access to necessary data and administrative data  
10 systems.

11 (6) The Washington state institute for public policy shall report  
12 to the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature with  
13 the results of the study by December 31, 2008.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sum of fifty-five thousand dollars, or  
15 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal  
16 year ending June 30, 2009, from the general fund to the Washington  
17 state institute for public policy for the purposes of this act.

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