
SENATE BILL 6429

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Senators Hargrove, Stevens, McAuliffe, and Carrell

Read first time 01/16/08. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

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) In conducting its analysis in subsection (3) of this section,
38 the Washington state institute for public policy may consult with

1 employees and data systems of the administrative office of the courts.
2 The administrative office of the courts shall cooperate with the
3 Washington state institute for public policy to the extent necessary,
4 including providing access to necessary data and administrative data
5 systems.

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

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sum of dollars, or as much
10 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending
11 June 30, 2009, from the general fund to the Washington state institute
12 for public policy for the purposes of this act.

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