
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6191

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Braun, Darneille, Hasegawa, O'Ban, Rolfes, Short, and Wilson, C.)

1 AN ACT Relating to assessing the prevalence of adverse childhood
2 experiences in middle and high school students to inform decision
3 making and improve services; adding a new section to chapter 28A.300
4 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature stated in RCW
7 70.305.005 that "adverse childhood experiences are a powerful common
8 determinant of a child's ability to be successful at school and, as
9 an adult, to be successful at work, to avoid behavioral and chronic
10 physical health conditions, and to build healthy relationships."

11 (2) The legislature recognizes that the healthy youth survey is a
12 voluntary and anonymous survey administered every two years to
13 students in sixth, eighth, tenth, and twelfth grades.

14 (3) The legislature intends to include questions related to
15 adverse childhood experiences in the healthy youth survey to help
16 assess the prevalence of adverse childhood experiences throughout the
17 state. The legislature further intends for this data to help inform
18 school district and community decision making and improve services
19 for students.

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

3 (1)(a) The health care authority, in collaboration with the
4 office of the superintendent of public instruction, the department of
5 health, and the liquor and cannabis board, must incorporate questions
6 related to adverse childhood experiences into the healthy youth
7 survey that are validated for children and would allow reporting of
8 adverse childhood experiences during childhood to be included in
9 frequency reports. The questions must be administered for two cycles
10 of the healthy youth survey and then evaluated by the agencies for
11 any needed changes.

12 (b) Student responses to the healthy youth survey are voluntary
13 and must remain anonymous.

14 (c) The aggregated student responses to the adverse childhood
15 experiences questions must be published by state, educational service
16 district, county, and school district if the district has more than
17 twenty students. The aggregated student responses to the adverse
18 childhood experiences questions must be available to school buildings
19 and school districts with twenty or fewer students.

20 (2) School districts are encouraged to use the information about
21 adverse childhood experiences in their decision making and to help
22 improve services for students.

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