

HB 1096-S - DIGEST

(SUBSTITUTED FOR - SEE 2ND SUB)

Finds that: (1) The economic trends of globalization and technological change are increasing the demand for higher and differently skilled workers than in the past;

(2) Increasing Washington's economic competitiveness requires increasing the supply of skilled workers in the state;

(3) Improving the labor market competitiveness of all Washington residents requires that all residents have access to postsecondary education; and

(4) Community and technical college workforce training programs and Washington state apprenticeship and training council-approved apprenticeship programs provide effective and efficient pathways for people to enter high wage, high skill careers while also meeting the needs of the economy.

Requires the college board to develop and implement a workforce education program known as the opportunity grant program to provide funding for students enrolled at qualified institutions of higher education in opportunity grant-eligible programs of study as described in this act. Students enrolled in the opportunity grant program are eligible for: (1) Funding for tuition and mandatory fees at the public community and technical college rate, prorated if the credit load is less than full time, paid directly to the educational institution; and

(2) An additional one thousand dollars per academic year for books, tools, and supplies, prorated if the credit load is less than full time.