
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2630

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By House Higher Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Probst, Kenney, Conway, Maxwell, Jacks, White, Simpson, Sequist, Sells, Goodman, Ormsby, and Santos)

READ FIRST TIME 01/25/10.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the opportunity express program;
2 amending RCW 28C.04.390; adding new sections to chapter 28B.50 RCW;
3 creating a new section; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that in times of
6 severe economic recession, the state has a special obligation to help
7 unemployed and low-income citizens access the training and education
8 necessary to help them find and keep living wage jobs. The legislature
9 also finds that during times of recession, when state revenues are at
10 their lowest, demand for education and training are at their highest,
11 making it especially important for the legislature to set clear goals
12 and make the most efficient use of limited state resources.

13 The legislature therefore intends to expand training and education
14 programs, which have proven to be successful, to ensure that Washington
15 citizens can get the training they need. These programs include the
16 worker retraining program, the opportunity grant program, and the
17 opportunity internship program. The legislature further intends to
18 create more effective intake and outreach systems to reach the greatest

1 number of citizens and connect them to the resources they need,
2 including college, apprenticeship, and preapprenticeship.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28C.04.390 and 1999 c 121 s 1 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 (1) The college board worker retraining program funds shall be used
6 for training programs and related support services, including financial
7 aid, counseling, referral to training resources, job referral, and job
8 development that:

9 (a) Are consistent with the unified plan for workforce development;

10 (b) Provide increased enrollments for dislocated workers;

11 (c) Provide customized training opportunities for dislocated
12 workers; and

13 (d) Provide increased enrollments and support services, including
14 financial aid for those students not receiving unemployment insurance
15 benefits, that do not replace or supplant any existing enrollments,
16 programs, support services, or funding sources.

17 (2) The college board shall develop a plan for use of the worker
18 retraining program funds in conjunction with the workforce training
19 customer advisory committee established in subsection (3) of this
20 section. In developing the plan the college board shall:

21 (a) Provide that applicants for worker retraining program funds
22 shall solicit financial support for training programs and give priority
23 in receipt of funds to those applicants which are most successful in
24 matching public dollars with financial support;

25 (b) Provide that applicants for worker retraining program funds
26 shall develop training programs in partnership with local businesses,
27 industry associations, labor, and other partners as appropriate and
28 give priority in receipt of funds to those applicants who develop
29 customized training programs in partnership with local businesses,
30 industry associations, and labor organizations;

31 (c) Give priority in receipt of funds to those applicants serving
32 rural areas;

33 (d) Ensure that applicants receiving worker retraining program
34 funds gather information from local workforce development councils on
35 employer workforce needs, including the needs of businesses with less
36 than twenty-five employees; (~~and~~)

1 (e) Provide for specialized vocational training at a private career
2 school or college at the request of a recipient eligible under
3 subsection (1)(b) of this section. Available tuition for the training
4 is limited to the amount that would otherwise be payable per enrolled
5 quarter to a public institution; and

6 (f) Give priority in receipt of funds to those applicants working
7 toward careers in the aerospace, health care, advanced manufacturing,
8 construction, renewable energy industries, high-demand industries
9 identified in the state comprehensive plan and the workforce
10 development councils' local comprehensive plans for workforce
11 educational training as identified in RCW 28C.18.080 and 50.38.050, or
12 occupations and industries identified by community and technical
13 colleges in collaboration with local workforce development councils.

14 (3) The executive director of the college board shall appoint a
15 workforce training customer advisory committee by July 1, 1999, to:

16 (a) Assist in the development of the plan for the use of the
17 college board worker retraining program funds and recommend guidelines
18 to the college board for the operation of worker retraining programs;

19 (b) Recommend selection criteria for worker retraining programs and
20 grant applicants for receipt of worker retraining program grants;

21 (c) Provide advice to the college board on other workforce
22 development activities of the community and technical colleges;

23 (d) Recommend selection criteria for job skills grants, consistent
24 with criteria established in this chapter and chapter 121, Laws of
25 1999. Such criteria shall include a prioritization of job skills
26 applicants in rural areas;

27 (e) Recommend guidelines to the college board for the operation of
28 the job skills program; and

29 (f) Recommend grant applicants for receipt of job skills program
30 grants.

31 (4) Members of the workforce training customer advisory committee
32 shall consist of three college system representatives selected by the
33 executive director of the college board, three representatives of
34 business selected from nominations provided by statewide business
35 organizations, and three representatives of labor selected from
36 nominations provided by a statewide labor organization representing a
37 cross-section of workers in the state.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 By July 1, 2010, and within existing resources, the college board
4 may create a single web site for the purpose of advertising the
5 availability of opportunity express funding to Washington citizens;
6 explaining that opportunity express helps people who want to pursue
7 college and apprenticeship for certain targeted industries; and
8 explaining that opportunity express includes three tracks: Worker
9 retraining for unemployed adults; opportunity internships for high
10 school students; and opportunity grants for low-income adults. The web
11 site may also direct interested individuals to the appropriate local
12 intake office. The web site may also include a link to the Washington
13 state department of labor and industries apprenticeship program.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 The opportunity express account is established as a special fund,
17 separate and apart from all public moneys or funds of this state. Up
18 to one hundred million dollars in the account may be spent only after
19 appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only for the
20 worker retraining, opportunity internship, and opportunity grant
21 programs described in sections 1 through 3 of this act. Appropriations
22 from this account shall include sufficient amounts for the worker
23 retraining program, the opportunity internship program, and the
24 opportunity grant program, to ensure that unemployed individuals, low-
25 income high school students, and low-income adults all benefit from
26 expenditures from this account. Up to two percent of the funds in the
27 account may be appropriated for outreach, recruiting, and advertising
28 to ensure rapid use of opportunity express by Washington citizens.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate
30 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
31 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
32 immediately.

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