
HOUSE BILL 2632

State of Washington

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By Representatives Probst, Pettigrew, Green, Simpson, Kenney, Miloscia, and Ormsby

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1 AN ACT Relating to expanding the percentage of households living in
2 the middle-income bracket; amending RCW 28C.18.060; reenacting and
3 amending RCW 28C.18.080; adding a new section to chapter 28B.50 RCW;
4 adding a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; adding a new section to
5 chapter 43.330 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 50.12 RCW; adding
6 a new section to chapter 43.20A RCW; adding a new section to chapter
7 43.41 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the proportion of
10 people living in middle-income families has declined from fifty-one
11 percent in 1979 to forty-two percent in 2007, and the current economic
12 crisis has likely exacerbated this decline. The legislature further
13 finds that when economic recovery occurs, it must result in more of
14 Washington's families living in the middle-income bracket or higher
15 over the long term. Not only does expanding the proportion of people
16 living in middle-income families strengthen society, it will reduce
17 state expenditures by reducing caseloads in medical, social services,
18 and corrections programs, and increase state revenue by increasing
19 individual incomes.

1 The legislature also finds that with this financial crisis comes
2 the opportunity to move government away from paying state agencies for
3 process, and toward paying for actual accomplishment of measurable
4 results. The legislature therefore intends to seize this opportunity
5 and move more people out of dependence and into independent, livable
6 wage jobs, by mandating that agencies work together in a coordinated
7 and result-driven manner to improve services to Washingtonians.
8 Accomplishing this will require teamwork across multiple state
9 agencies, including the department of social and health services, the
10 department of commerce, the office of the superintendent of public
11 instruction, the state board for community and technical colleges, and
12 the employment security department. By acting strategically at this
13 decisive moment in the state's economic history, the legislature
14 intends to reverse the trend of the last thirty years and begin a
15 gradual and sustained increase in the percentage of Washington
16 households living in the middle-income bracket or above.

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

19 (1) The college board shall adopt as one of its goals to increase
20 the percentage of Washington households living in the middle-income
21 bracket or higher. The college board shall delineate specific
22 strategies to reach the goal in agency planning documents, including
23 strategic and operational plans. The plans should include but not be
24 limited to recruiting and retaining more people into skills training
25 leading to middle-income occupations and increasing education and
26 training capacity for skills training that leads to middle-income
27 careers.

28 (2) For purposes of this section, "middle-income bracket" has the
29 definition in RCW 28C.18.080.

30 (3) The college board shall submit to the board and the office of
31 financial management its agency strategies to increase the percent of
32 people living in the middle-income bracket or higher. The report is
33 due by September 1st in even-numbered years and October 1st in odd-
34 numbered years, beginning September 1, 2010.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
36 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt as one of
2 its goals to increase the percentage of Washington households living in
3 the middle-income bracket or higher. The superintendent shall
4 delineate specific strategies to reach the goal in agency planning
5 documents, including strategic and operational plans. The plans should
6 include but not be limited to reducing high school dropout rates,
7 increasing education and training capacity for skills training that
8 leads to middle-income careers, informing all students and parents of
9 local careers that do not require a four-year degree and lead to
10 incomes in the middle-income bracket or higher, and providing
11 internships and preapprenticeship experience to high school students to
12 allow them to experience high-demand occupations.

13 (2) For purposes of this section, "middle-income bracket" has the
14 definition in RCW 28C.18.080.

15 (3) The superintendent of public instruction shall submit to the
16 workforce training and education coordinating board and the office of
17 financial management its agency strategies to increase the percent of
18 people living in the middle-income bracket or higher. The report is
19 due by September 1st in even-numbered years and October 1st in odd-
20 numbered years, beginning September 1, 2010.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330 RCW
22 to read as follows:

23 (1) The department shall adopt as one of its goals to increase the
24 percentage of Washington households living in the middle-income bracket
25 or higher. The department shall delineate specific strategies to reach
26 the goal in agency planning documents, including strategic and
27 operational plans. The plans should include but not be limited to
28 recruiting and retaining more people into skills training leading to
29 middle-income occupations and focusing economic development strategies
30 on growing and attracting jobs that allow Washington households to live
31 in the middle-income bracket or higher.

32 (2) For purposes of this section, "middle-income bracket" has the
33 definition in RCW 28C.18.080.

34 (3) The department shall submit to the workforce training and
35 education coordinating board and the office of financial management its
36 agency strategies to increase the percent of people living in the

1 middle-income bracket or higher. The report is due by September 1st in
2 even-numbered years and October 1st in odd-numbered years, beginning
3 September 1, 2010.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 50.12 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The commissioner shall adopt as one of the department's goals
7 to increase the percentage of Washington households living in the
8 middle-income bracket or higher. The commissioner shall delineate
9 specific strategies to reach the goal in agency planning documents,
10 including strategic and operational plans. The plans should include
11 but not be limited to recruiting and retaining more people into skills
12 training leading to middle-income occupations, and providing income
13 support to individuals while they are in such training.

14 (2) For purposes of this section, "middle-income bracket" has the
15 definition in RCW 28C.18.080.

16 (3) The commissioner shall submit to the workforce training and
17 education coordinating board and the office of financial management the
18 department's strategies to increase the percent of people living in the
19 middle-income bracket or higher. The report is due by September 1st in
20 even-numbered years and October 1st in odd-numbered years, beginning
21 September 1, 2010.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 43.20A RCW
23 to read as follows:

24 (1) The secretary shall adopt as one of the department's goals to
25 increase the percentage of Washington households living in the middle-
26 income bracket. The secretary shall delineate specific strategies to
27 reach the goal in agency planning documents, including strategic and
28 operational plans. The plans should include but not be limited to
29 focusing on temporary assistance to needy families, WorkFirst, state
30 general assistance, basic food training and employment, vocational
31 rehabilitation, and other appropriate social service programs and
32 employment in careers that lead to middle-income earnings or higher,
33 and to the extent practicable, reductions in teen pregnancy, and drug
34 and alcohol abuse prevention.

35 (2) For purposes of this section, "middle-income bracket" has the
36 definition in RCW 28C.18.080.

1 (3) The secretary shall submit to the workforce training and
2 education coordinating board and the office of financial management the
3 department's strategies for WorkFirst, state general assistance,
4 vocational rehabilitation, the temporary assistance for needy families
5 program, the basic food employment and training program, and other
6 appropriate social service programs as they relate to increasing the
7 percent of people living in the middle-income bracket or higher. The
8 report is due by September 1st in even-numbered years and October 1st
9 in odd-numbered years, beginning September 1, 2010.

10 **Sec. 7.** RCW 28C.18.060 and 2009 c 151 s 6 are each amended to read
11 as follows:

12 The board, in cooperation with the operating agencies of the state
13 training system and private career schools and colleges, shall:

14 (1) Concentrate its major efforts on planning, coordination
15 evaluation, policy analysis, and recommending improvements to the
16 state's training system;

17 (2) Advocate for the state training system and for meeting the
18 needs of employers and the workforce for workforce education and
19 training;

20 (3) Establish and maintain an inventory of the programs of the
21 state training system, and related state programs, and perform a
22 biennial assessment of the vocational education, training, and adult
23 basic education and literacy needs of the state; identify ongoing and
24 strategic education needs; and assess the extent to which employment,
25 training, vocational and basic education, rehabilitation services, and
26 public assistance services represent a consistent, integrated approach
27 to meet such needs;

28 (4) Develop and maintain a state comprehensive plan for workforce
29 training and education, including but not limited to, goals,
30 objectives, and priorities for the state training system, and review
31 the state training system for consistency with the state comprehensive
32 plan. In developing the state comprehensive plan for workforce
33 training and education, the board shall use, but shall not be limited
34 to: Economic, labor market, and populations trends reports in office
35 of financial management forecasts; joint office of financial management
36 and employment security department labor force, industry employment,
37 and occupational forecasts; the results of scientifically based

1 outcome, net-impact and cost-benefit evaluations; the needs of
2 employers as evidenced in formal employer surveys and other employer
3 input; and the needs of program participants and workers as evidenced
4 in formal surveys and other input from program participants and the
5 labor community;

6 (5) In consultation with the higher education coordinating board,
7 review and make recommendations to the office of financial management
8 and the legislature on operating and capital facilities budget requests
9 for operating agencies of the state training system for purposes of
10 consistency with the state comprehensive plan for workforce training
11 and education;

12 (6) Provide for coordination among the different operating agencies
13 and components of the state training system at the state level and at
14 the regional level;

15 (7) Develop a consistent and reliable database on vocational
16 education enrollments, costs, program activities, and job placements
17 from publicly funded vocational education programs in this state;

18 (8)(a) Establish standards for data collection and maintenance for
19 the operating agencies of the state training system in a format that is
20 accessible to use by the board. The board shall require a minimum of
21 common core data to be collected by each operating agency of the state
22 training system;

23 (b) Develop requirements for minimum common core data in
24 consultation with the office of financial management and the operating
25 agencies of the training system;

26 (9) Establish minimum standards for program evaluation for the
27 operating agencies of the state training system, including, but not
28 limited to, the use of common survey instruments and procedures for
29 measuring perceptions of program participants and employers of program
30 participants, and monitor such program evaluation;

31 (10) Every two years administer scientifically based outcome
32 evaluations of the state training system, including, but not limited
33 to, surveys of program participants, surveys of employers of program
34 participants, and matches with employment security department payroll
35 and wage files. Every five years administer scientifically based net-
36 impact and cost-benefit evaluations of the state training system;

37 (11) In cooperation with the employment security department,
38 provide for the improvement and maintenance of quality and utility in

1 occupational information and forecasts for use in training system
2 planning and evaluation. Improvements shall include, but not be
3 limited to, development of state-based occupational change factors
4 involving input by employers and employees, and delineation of skill
5 and training requirements by education level associated with current
6 and forecasted occupations;

7 (12) Provide for the development of common course description
8 formats, common reporting requirements, and common definitions for
9 operating agencies of the training system;

10 (13) Provide for effectiveness and efficiency reviews of the state
11 training system;

12 (14) In cooperation with the higher education coordinating board,
13 facilitate transfer of credit policies and agreements between
14 institutions of the state training system, and encourage articulation
15 agreements for programs encompassing two years of secondary workforce
16 education and two years of postsecondary workforce education;

17 (15) In cooperation with the higher education coordinating board,
18 facilitate transfer of credit policies and agreements between private
19 training institutions and institutions of the state training system;

20 (16) Develop policy objectives for the workforce investment act,
21 P.L. 105-220, or its successor; develop coordination criteria for
22 activities under the act with related programs and services provided by
23 state and local education and training agencies; and ensure that
24 entrepreneurial training opportunities are available through programs
25 of each local workforce investment board in the state;

26 (17) Make recommendations to the commission of student assessment,
27 the state board of education, and the superintendent of public
28 instruction, concerning basic skill competencies and essential core
29 competencies for K-12 education. Basic skills for this purpose shall
30 be reading, writing, computation, speaking, and critical thinking,
31 essential core competencies for this purpose shall be English, math,
32 science/technology, history, geography, and critical thinking. The
33 board shall monitor the development of and provide advice concerning
34 secondary curriculum which integrates vocational and academic
35 education;

36 (18) Establish and administer programs for marketing and outreach
37 to businesses and potential program participants;

1 (19) Facilitate the location of support services, including but not
2 limited to, child care, financial aid, career counseling, and job
3 placement services, for students and trainees at institutions in the
4 state training system, and advocate for support services for trainees
5 and students in the state training system;

6 (20) Facilitate private sector assistance for the state training
7 system, including but not limited to: Financial assistance, rotation
8 of private and public personnel, and vocational counseling;

9 (21) Facilitate the development of programs for school-to-work
10 transition that combine classroom education and on-the-job training,
11 including entrepreneurial education and training, in industries and
12 occupations without a significant number of apprenticeship programs;

13 (22) Include in the planning requirements for local workforce
14 investment boards a requirement that the local workforce investment
15 boards specify how entrepreneurial training is to be offered through
16 the one-stop system required under the workforce investment act, P.L.
17 105-220, or its successor;

18 (23) Encourage and assess progress for the equitable representation
19 of racial and ethnic minorities, women, and people with disabilities
20 among the students, teachers, and administrators of the state training
21 system. Equitable, for this purpose, shall mean substantially
22 proportional to their percentage of the state population in the
23 geographic area served. This function of the board shall in no way
24 lessen more stringent state or federal requirements for representation
25 of racial and ethnic minorities, women, and people with disabilities;

26 (24) Participate in the planning and policy development of governor
27 set-aside grants under P.L. 97-300, as amended;

28 (25) Administer veterans' programs, licensure of private vocational
29 schools, the job skills program, and the Washington award for
30 vocational excellence;

31 (26) Allocate funding from the state job training trust fund;

32 (27) Work with the director of (~~community, trade, and economic~~
33 ~~development~~) commerce and the economic development commission to
34 ensure coordination among workforce training priorities, the long-term
35 economic development strategy of the economic development commission,
36 and economic development and entrepreneurial development efforts,
37 including but not limited to assistance to industry clusters;

1 (28) Conduct research into workforce development programs designed
2 to reduce the high unemployment rate among young people between
3 approximately eighteen and twenty-four years of age. In consultation
4 with the operating agencies, the board shall advise the governor and
5 legislature on policies and programs to alleviate the high unemployment
6 rate among young people. The research shall include disaggregated
7 demographic information and, to the extent possible, income data for
8 adult youth. The research shall also include a comparison of the
9 effectiveness of programs examined as a part of the research conducted
10 in this subsection in relation to the public investment made in these
11 programs in reducing unemployment of young adults. The board shall
12 report to the appropriate committees of the legislature by November 15,
13 2008, and every two years thereafter. Where possible, the data
14 reported to the legislative committees should be reported in numbers
15 and in percentages;

16 (29) Review agency submissions, pursuant to sections 2 through 6 of
17 this act and rank the proposed strategies based on criteria adopted by
18 the board. The rankings shall be developed annually, concurrent with
19 annual progress reports on the state comprehensive plan for workforce
20 training and education. A report containing the rankings is due
21 annually to the legislature by November 1st in even-numbered years and
22 December 1st in odd-numbered years, beginning November 1, 2010;

23 (30) Adopt rules as necessary to implement this chapter.
24 The board may delegate to the director any of the functions of this
25 section.

26 **Sec. 8.** RCW 28C.18.080 and 2009 c 421 s 6, 2009 c 151 s 7, and
27 2009 c 92 s 1 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

28 (1)(a) The board shall develop a state comprehensive plan for
29 workforce training and education for a ten-year time period that
30 incorporates information from the area comprehensive plans. The board
31 shall submit the ten-year state comprehensive plan to the governor and
32 the appropriate legislative policy committees. Every four years by
33 December 1st, beginning December 1, 2012, the board shall submit an
34 update of the ten-year state comprehensive plan for workforce training
35 and education to the governor and the appropriate legislative policy
36 committees.

1 **(b)** Following public hearings, the legislature shall, by concurrent
2 resolution, approve or recommend changes to the initial plan and the
3 updates. The plan shall then become the state's workforce training
4 policy unless legislation is enacted to alter the policies set forth in
5 the plan.

6 **(2)(a)** Area workforce development councils shall develop area
7 comprehensive plans for workforce training and education for a ten-year
8 time period. The area plans shall inform the development of the state
9 comprehensive plan.

10 **(b)** The area workforce development councils shall submit their
11 respective ten-year area comprehensive plans to the board. Every four
12 years by July 1st, beginning July 1, 2012, the area workforce
13 development councils shall submit an update of their respective
14 ten-year area comprehensive plans for workforce training and education
15 to the board.

16 **(3)** The comprehensive plan shall include workforce training role
17 and mission statements for the workforce development programs of
18 operating agencies represented on the board and sufficient specificity
19 regarding expected actions by the operating agencies to allow them to
20 carry out actions consistent with the comprehensive plan.

21 ~~((+3))~~ **(a)** The comprehensive plan developed by the board and the
22 area comprehensive plans developed by the area workforce development
23 councils shall include goals to increase the percentage of Washington
24 households living in the middle-income bracket or higher.

25 **(b)** For purposes of this section and sections 2 through 6 of this
26 act, "middle-income bracket" means family incomes above the 2009
27 federal poverty level for a family of four, adjusted annually for
28 inflation. This is intended to create a clear and simple definition of
29 the middle-income bracket that is highly transparent to the public and
30 can be represented by a single dollar value. This definition does not
31 preclude agencies and programs from using other measures for
32 programmatic purposes, such as self-sufficiency measures or federal
33 poverty level adjusted for household size.

34 **(4)** Operating agencies represented on the board shall have
35 operating plans for their workforce development efforts that are
36 consistent with the comprehensive plan and that provide detail on
37 implementation steps they will take to carry out their responsibilities

1 under the plan. Each operating agency represented on the board shall
2 provide an annual progress report to the board.

3 ~~((+4))~~ (5) The comprehensive plan shall include recommendations to
4 the legislature and the governor on the modification, consolidation,
5 initiation, or elimination of workforce training and education programs
6 in the state.

7 ~~((+5))~~ (6) The comprehensive plan shall identify the strategic
8 industry clusters targeted by the workforce development system. In
9 identifying the strategic clusters, the board shall consult with the
10 economic development commission to identify clusters that meet the
11 criteria identified by the working group convened by the economic
12 development commission and the workforce training and education
13 coordinating board under RCW 43.330.280.

14 ~~((+6))~~ (7) The board shall report to the appropriate legislative
15 policy committees by December 1st of each odd-numbered year and by
16 November 1st of each even-numbered year on its progress in implementing
17 the comprehensive plan and on the progress of the operating agencies in
18 meeting their obligations under the plan.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A new section is added to chapter 43.41 RCW
20 to read as follows:

21 The office, in partnership with the workforce training and
22 education coordinating board, shall:

23 (1) Annually estimate the percentage of Washington residents with
24 incomes in the middle-income bracket or higher. For purposes of this
25 section, middle-income bracket means family incomes above the 2009
26 federal poverty level for a family of four, adjusted annually for
27 inflation;

28 (2) Define the estimated total savings to the state associated with
29 incremental improvement in the percent of people with family incomes in
30 the middle-income bracket or higher. Estimated total savings to the
31 state shall include but are not limited to:

32 (a) Caseload reductions in medical, social service, and corrections
33 programs; and

34 (b) Total increases in sales tax revenue associated with higher
35 annual income;

36 (3) Beginning December 1, 2011, and annually thereafter, report the

1 findings developed in this section to the governor and the appropriate
2 committees of the legislature.

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