

2 **SSB 6296** - S AMD - 236
3 By Senators Horn and Sheahan

4 NOT ADOPTED 3/3/00

5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
6 following:

7 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that a relatively
8 small number of those on welfare would qualify for college admission
9 and may benefit from completion of their higher education at a
10 community, trade, or technical college, or other institute of higher
11 education. In 1999, the federal government adopted final regulations
12 for temporary assistance for needy families, allowing expanded use of
13 block grant and maintenance of effort funds. Therefore under federal
14 guidelines these funds may be used creatively for a variety of special
15 approaches, to help poor families achieve true financial independence.
16 (2) It has been suggested that funding be provided to allow selective
17 access to postsecondary education for a limited number of qualified
18 adult recipients of temporary assistance for needy families, while
19 maintaining the emphasis on employment that is the hallmark of the
20 WorkFirst program.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A legislative task force is established
22 to review and make recommendations regarding the proposition that the
23 legislature provide temporary assistance for needy families grants,
24 including child care and tuition assistance, to a limited number of
25 college-qualified individuals, with the goal of providing a means for
26 highly motivated welfare recipients to complete college, exit
27 assistance, and secure careers to benefit themselves, their families
28 and society. The task force shall consist of five members, as follows:

29 (a) Two members from each of the two largest caucuses of the
30 senate, appointed by the president of the senate;

31 (b) Two members from each of the two largest caucuses of the house
32 of representatives, appointed by the co-speakers of the house of
33 representatives;

34 (c) A representative of the executive branch, appointed by the
35 governor.

1 The task force shall choose its chair from among its membership.

2 (2) The task force shall review the fundamental intent, and history
3 of the WorkFirst program and determine to what extent, if any, the
4 system should be modified to meet the challenges of locating employment
5 for individuals receiving temporary assistance for needy families,
6 including the possibility of providing tuition assistance, to a limited
7 number of college-qualified individuals. In examining the possibility
8 of providing such tuition assistance, the task force shall compare the
9 success of individuals who attend school full time prior to employment
10 in their particular field, and those who attend school part time and
11 are simultaneously employed part time, thus acquiring valuable work
12 experience. The task force shall compare completion rates, salary
13 levels and promotion opportunities of these two groups of individuals.

14 (3) The task force shall use legislative facilities and staff from
15 senate committee services and the office of program research, but may
16 hire additional staff with specific technical expertise if such
17 expertise is necessary to carry out the mandates of this study. All
18 expenses of the task force, including travel, shall be paid jointly by
19 the senate and the house of representatives.

20 (4) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to
21 the legislature by December 1, 2000.

22 (5) This section expires July 1, 2001."

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26 On page 1, on line 2 of the title, after "families;", strike
27 everything through "RCW;" on line 3 of the title.

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EFFECT: Strikes the bill and creates a study.