
HOUSE BILL 2956

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Kenney, Skinner, Lantz, Edwards, Wood and Santos; by request of Lieutenant Governor

Read first time 01/25/2000. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing technical training at state
2 educational institutions; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the demand for
5 skilled workers with postsecondary vocational-technical certificates or
6 degrees exceeds the state's supply from community and technical
7 colleges, private career schools, and apprenticeships by a ratio of two
8 to one. The legislature further finds that costs incurred by community
9 and technical colleges in offering programs to meet this demand are
10 higher than the costs for basic skills and academic classes. The
11 legislature further finds that a lack of timely labor market
12 information impedes the ability of educational institutions to be
13 responsive to shifting training needs, thus decreasing the availability
14 of skilled workers and reducing the productivity and competitiveness of
15 Washington businesses. The legislature intends to increase the
16 capacity of the state's community and technical colleges to develop
17 timely labor market information and provide an increased number of
18 postsecondary vocational-technical certificates or degrees in high-
19 demand fields.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The state board for community and technical
2 colleges shall conduct regular, systematic analyses of projected
3 training needs of the largest industrial sectors within the state as
4 well as the industrial sectors within the state that have the highest
5 annual rate of increase in employment. The board shall make this
6 information available to all community and technical colleges and
7 private career schools in the state as well as to the supervisor of the
8 state apprenticeship council.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The state board for community and technical
10 colleges shall provide grants to community and technical colleges that
11 make use of the information provided them under section 2 of this act
12 and offer new or expanded training programs to meet newly identified
13 training needs. The grants shall be used exclusively to pay for the
14 costs of vocational-technical training equipment, supplies, and
15 instructors.

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