

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SSB 5166

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**As Reported by House Committee On:**  
Higher Education

**Title:** An act relating to branches of member institutions of accrediting associations recognized by rule of the higher education coordinating board.

**Brief Description:** Allowing state financial aid to be used at Washington branch campuses of accredited out-of-state institutions of higher education.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Senators Kohl-Welles, Carlson, Horn, Shin, Jacobsen and McAuliffe).

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Higher Education: 2/13/02, 2/22/02 [DP].

**Brief Summary of Substitute Bill**

- Allows state financial aid to be used at a qualified branch of an out-of-state institution.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 6 members: Representatives Kenney, Chair; Fromhold, Vice Chair; Cox, Ranking Minority Member; Chase, Dunn and Jarrett.

**Staff:** Antonio Sanchez (786-7383).

**Background:**

Under current law, state student financial aid may be used at any public university, college, community college or vocational-technical institute operated by the state or any political subdivision. The aid can also be used at any other university, college, school or institute in Washington offering post-secondary instruction so long as the school is a member of an accrediting association recognized by the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB). In order for an institution, branch, extension or facility affiliated with an institution from outside of Washington to be eligible to accept state financial aid, it must be a separately accredited member of any accrediting association recognized by the

HECB.

State Work Study may be used at any post-secondary institution in Washington accredited by the Northwest Association of School and Colleges as well as any public technical college in this state.

As the result of the current requirements, there are several branch campuses of out-of-state institutions ineligible for state financial aid.

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**Summary of Substitute Bill:**

State financial aid can be used by students attending a branch of an institution that is a member of an accrediting association recognized by the HECB, is eligible for federal financial aid, and has operated as a nonprofit college or university delivering on-site classroom instruction in Washington for a minimum of 10 consecutive years. This would include: Antioch, Chapman, Embry-Riddle, Linfield Park, Southern Illinois University and Columbia College.

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**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** This bill will allow for a diversification of higher education options in this state and provide low-income students with the assistance they need to complete their education.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Senator Kohl-Welles, prime sponsor; Bruce Botka, Higher Education Coordinating Board; Mel Jackson, Carson Marshall, Alicia Nunnery, and Dennis Eagle, Antioch University-Seattle; and Russ Carver, Washington Student Lobby.