

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5940

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
Education, February 27, 2001

Title: An act relating to career and technical education.

Brief Description: Strengthening career and technical education.

Sponsors: Senators Regala, McAuliffe, Carlson, Kohl-Welles, Eide, Kastama, Rasmussen and Finkbeiner; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Education: 2/22/01, 2/27/01 [DPS, DNP].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5940 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators McAuliffe, Chair; Eide, Vice Chair; Carlson, Kastama, Kohl-Welles, Prentice, Rasmussen and Regala.

Minority Report: Do not pass.

Signed by Senators Hewitt, Hochstatter and Zarelli.

Staff: Kelly Simpson (786-7403)

Background: In 1993, the Legislature enacted education reform measures that include four general student learning goals required of school districts. Goal four requires districts to provide students with opportunities to understand the importance of work and how student actions affect future career opportunities. Additionally, current high school graduation requirements adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE) require students to take a minimum of one credit of occupational education.

Summary of Substitute Bill: The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) must: (1) establish standards for career and technical programs that should include specified components; and (2) recommend a system of funding the implementation of the standards. Additionally, OSPI may provide technical assistance to school districts regarding career guidance and work with stakeholders to provide for the coordination of leadership activities with the curriculum of technical education programs.

Finally, OSPI must review and approve school districts' plans for the delivery of career and technical education.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill: The requirement that OSPI select up to 12 pilot sites for implementing the career and technical standards was removed. The requirement that OSPI provide technical assistance regarding career guidance and to serve as advisors to career

or technical student organizations was removed. Rather, OSPI may offer such assistance and serve as advisors to such groups.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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

Testimony For: Not all students are college-bound. Many desire to go on to vocational and technical careers. This bill would create comprehensive standards for career and technical education programs, bring visibility to the issue, and help to ensure that these programs continue in the schools. Furthermore, career pathways are a major piece of education reform measures and should be developed. Finally, all students, including career and technical students, should be supported as they attempt to accomplish their goals in life.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Senator Regala, prime sponsor; Kyra Kester, OSPI; Leska Wetterauer, Puyallup SD; Doug Angell, Bothell HS; John Aultman, New Market VSC; Sally Zeiger Hanson, SBCTC; Ellen O'Brian Saunders, Workforce Bd.; Tim Knue, Kathleen Lopp, WACTE; Rainer Houser, AWSP; Larry Davis, SBE; Carol Taylor Cann, PTA; Christie Perkins, WSSEC - Spec. Ed.