
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6295

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Kilmer, Rockefeller, Hobbs, Shin, Franklin, Marr, Rasmussen, Kastama, Kauffman, Keiser, Kohl-Welles, Hatfield, Berkey, and Regala)

READ FIRST TIME 02/12/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to workplace-based electronically distributed
2 learning; adding new sections to chapter 28C.18 RCW; creating a new
3 section; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there are many
6 working adults in Washington that need additional postsecondary
7 educational opportunities to further develop their employability. The
8 legislature further finds that many of these people postpone or call
9 off their personal educational plans because they are busy working and
10 raising their families. Because the largest portion of our workforce
11 over the next thirty years is already employed but in need of skill
12 development, and because many low-wage, low-skilled, and mid-skilled
13 individuals cannot take advantage of postsecondary educational
14 opportunities as they currently exist, the legislature intends to
15 identify and test additional postsecondary educational opportunities
16 tailored to make postsecondary education accessible to working adults
17 through the use of campuses extended to include workplace-based
18 educational offerings.

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

3 (1) To the extent funds are available for this purpose, the board
4 shall identify and evaluate current national private employer
5 workplace-based educational programs with distance learning components
6 provided by public colleges and universities. The evaluation shall
7 include:

8 (a) A review of the literature and direct surveys of practitioners
9 about promising practices and net impact analysis;

10 (b) An initial determination of feasibility based on targeted
11 populations served, subject matter, and level of education;

12 (c) An overview of technological considerations and adult learning
13 strategies for distribution of learning to employer sites; and

14 (d) An overview of cost factors, including shared costs or co-
15 investments by public and private partners.

16 (2) The board shall report the results of the study and evaluation
17 to appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2008.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18 RCW
19 to read as follows:

20 (1) To the extent funds are available for this purpose, the board
21 shall use a matching fund strategy to select and evaluate up to eight
22 pilot projects operated by Washington institutions of higher education.
23 By September 2008, the board shall select up to eight institutions of
24 higher education as defined in RCW 28B.92.030 including at least four
25 community or technical colleges to develop and offer a pilot project
26 providing employer workplace-based educational programs with distance
27 learning components. The board shall convene a task force that
28 includes representatives from the state board for community and
29 technical colleges and the higher education coordinating board to
30 select the participant institutions. At a minimum, the criteria for
31 selecting the educational institutions shall address:

32 (a) The ability to demonstrate a capacity to make a commitment of
33 resources to build and sustain a high quality program;

34 (b) The ability to readily engage faculty appropriately qualified
35 to develop and deliver a high quality curriculum;

36 (c) The ability to demonstrate demand for the proposed program from

1 a sufficient number of students within its service area to make the
2 program cost-effective and feasible to operate; and

3 (d) The identification of available employers under subsection (3)
4 of this section that demonstrate willingness to host an on-site program
5 either because they demand the level of education proposed within the
6 program or because they expect to accrue benefits of improved worker
7 retention and productivity from employee engagement in higher
8 education.

9 (2) Institutions of higher education may submit an application to
10 become a pilot college under this section. An institution of higher
11 education selected as a pilot college shall develop the curriculum for
12 and design and deliver courses. However, the programs developed under
13 this section are subject to approval by the state board for technical
14 and community colleges under RCW 28B.50.090 and by the higher education
15 coordinating board under RCW 28B.76.230.

16 (3) By September 2008, the board, in cooperation with the state
17 board for community and technical colleges and the higher education
18 coordinating board, shall select employers with the ability to offer
19 employment and workplace-based educational programs with distance
20 learning components in cooperation with the institutions selected under
21 subsection (1) of this section. The selection criteria shall address:

22 (a) Access to educational coursework and educational advice and
23 support for entry-level and semi-skilled workers, including paid and
24 unpaid release time, and adequate classroom space that is equipped
25 appropriately for the selected technological distance learning
26 methodologies to be used;

27 (b) On-site promotion and encouragement of worker participation,
28 including employee orientations, peer support and mentoring,
29 educational tutoring, and career planning;

30 (c) Allowance of a reasonable level of worker choice in the type
31 and level of coursework available;

32 (d) Commitment to work with college partner to ensure the relevance
33 of coursework to the skill demands and potential career pathways of the
34 employer host site and other participating employers; and

35 (e) Willingness to participate in an evaluation of the pilot to
36 analyze the net benefit to the employer host site, other employer
37 partners, the worker-students, and the colleges.

1 (4) In firms with union representation, the establishment of a
2 labor-management committee to oversee design and participation shall be
3 mandatory.

4 (5) Joint applications from institutions of higher education and
5 private employers shall be encouraged.

6 (6) The board shall evaluate the pilot project and report the
7 outcomes to students and employers by December 1, 2012.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18 RCW
9 to read as follows:

10 The board may receive and expend federal funds and private gifts or
11 grants, which funds must be expended in accordance with any conditions
12 upon which the funds are contingent.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 2 through 4 of this act expire
14 December 31, 2012.

--- END ---