

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6295

Chapter 258, Laws of 2008

60th Legislature
2008 Regular Session

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES--WORKPLACE-BASED

EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/12/08

Passed by the Senate March 12, 2008
YEAS 49 NAYS 0

BRAD OWEN

President of the Senate

Passed by the House March 11, 2008
YEAS 94 NAYS 0

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved March 31, 2008, 11:17 a.m.

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6295** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

THOMAS HOEMANN

Secretary

FILED

April 1, 2008

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6295

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2008 Regular Session

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 appropriated specifically for this
4 purpose and in partnership with the state board for community and
5 technical colleges, the board shall convene a work group that includes
6 representatives from the prosperity partnership, the technology
7 alliance, the higher education coordinating board, a private career or
8 vocational school, a four-year public institution of higher education,
9 the council of faculty representatives, the united faculty of
10 Washington state, community and technical college faculty, and a
11 community and technical college student, to take the following actions
12 related to electronically distributed learning:

13 (a) Identify and evaluate current national private employer
14 workplace-based educational programs with electronically distributed
15 learning components provided by public colleges and universities. The
16 evaluation shall include:

17 (i) A review of the literature and interviews of practitioners
18 about promising practices and results;

19 (ii) An initial determination of feasibility based on targeted
20 populations served, subject matter, and level of education;

21 (iii) An overview of technological considerations and adult
22 learning strategies for distribution of learning to employer sites; and

23 (iv) An overview of cost factors, including shared costs or
24 coinvestments by public and private partners;

25 (b) Review and, to the extent necessary, establish standards and
26 best practices regarding electronically distributed learning and
27 related support services including online help desk support, advising,
28 mentoring, counseling, and tutoring;

29 (c) Recommend methods to increase student access to electronically
30 distributed learning programs of study and identify barriers to
31 programs of study participation and completion;

32 (d) Determine methods to increase the institutional supply and
33 quality of open course materials, with a focus on the OpenCourseWare
34 initiative at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology;

35 (e) Recommend methods to increase the availability and use of
36 digital open textbooks; and

37 (f) Review and report demographic information on electronically

1 distributed learning programs of study enrollments, retention, and
2 completions.

3 (2) The board shall work in cooperation with the state board for
4 community and technical colleges to report the preliminary results of
5 the studies to the appropriate committees of the legislature by
6 December 1, 2008, and a final report by December 1, 2009.

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

9 (1) To the extent funds are appropriated specifically for this
10 purpose, the board shall use a matching fund strategy to select and
11 evaluate up to eight pilot projects operated by Washington institutions
12 of higher education. By September 2008, the board shall select up to
13 eight institutions of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.92.030
14 including at least four community or technical colleges to develop and
15 offer a pilot project providing employer workplace-based educational
16 programs with distance learning components. The board shall convene a
17 task force that includes representatives from the state board for
18 community and technical colleges and the higher education coordinating
19 board to select the participant institutions. At a minimum, the
20 criteria for selecting the educational institutions shall address:

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

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

25 (c) The ability to demonstrate demand for the proposed program from
26 a sufficient number of interested employees within its service area to
27 make the program cost-effective and feasible to operate; and

28 (d) The identification of employers that demonstrate a commitment
29 to host an on-site program. Employers shall demonstrate their
30 commitment to provide:

31 (i) Access to educational coursework and educational advice and
32 support for entry-level and semiskilled workers, including paid and
33 unpaid release time, and adequate classroom space that is equipped
34 appropriately for the selected technological distance learning
35 methodologies to be used;

36 (ii) On-site promotion and encouragement of worker participation,

1 including employee orientations, peer support and mentoring,
2 educational tutoring, and career planning;

3 (iii) Allowance of a reasonable level of worker choice in the type
4 and level of coursework available;

5 (iv) Commitment to work with college partner to ensure the
6 relevance of coursework to the skill demands and potential career
7 pathways of the employer host site and other participating employers;

8 (v) Willingness to participate in an evaluation of the pilot to
9 analyze the net benefit to the employer host site, other employer
10 partners, the worker-students, and the colleges; and

11 (vi) In firms with union representation, the mandatory
12 establishment of a labor-management committee to oversee design and
13 participation.

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

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

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

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

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

Passed by the Senate March 12, 2008.

Passed by the House March 11, 2008.

Approved by the Governor March 31, 2008.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 1, 2008.