
HOUSE BILL 1601

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Representatives Probst, Kenney, Green, Moscoso, Hasegawa, Moeller, Reykdal, Appleton, Jacks, Cody, Ormsby, Sells, Liiias, Ryu, Stanford, McCoy, Upthegrove, Sullivan, Ladenburg, Kagi, Rolfes, Springer, Van De Wege, Santos, Takko, Haigh, Orwall, Tharinger, and Billig

Read first time 01/26/11. Referred to Committee on Community Development & Housing.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding the percentage of households living in
2 the middle-income bracket; amending RCW 28C.18.060; reenacting and
3 amending RCW 28C.18.080; adding a new section to chapter 28C.18 RCW;
4 adding a new section to chapter 28B.50 RCW; adding a new section to
5 chapter 28A.300 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 43.330 RCW; adding
6 a new section to chapter 50.12 RCW; adding a new section to chapter
7 43.20A RCW; adding a new section to chapter 82.01 RCW; adding a new
8 section to chapter 49.04 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 43.41 RCW;
9 and creating new sections.

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

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the proportion of
12 people living in middle-income families has declined from fifty-one
13 percent in 1979 to forty-two percent in 2007, and the current economic
14 crisis has likely exacerbated this decline. The legislature further
15 finds that when economic recovery occurs, it must result in more of
16 Washington's families living in the middle-income bracket or higher
17 over the long term. Not only does expanding the proportion of people
18 living in middle-income families strengthen society, it will reduce

1 state expenditures by reducing caseloads in medical, social services,
2 and corrections programs, and increase state revenue by increasing
3 individual incomes.

4 The legislature also finds that with this financial crisis comes
5 the opportunity to move government away from paying state agencies for
6 process, and toward paying for actual accomplishment of measurable
7 results. The legislature therefore intends to seize this opportunity
8 and move more people out of dependence and into independent, livable
9 wage jobs, by mandating that agencies work together in a coordinated
10 and result-driven manner to improve services to Washingtonians.
11 Accomplishing this will require teamwork across multiple state
12 agencies, including the department of social and health services, the
13 department of commerce, the office of the superintendent of public
14 instruction, the state board for community and technical colleges, the
15 employment security department, the department of revenue, the
16 Washington state apprenticeship and training council, and the office of
17 financial management's labor relations office. By acting strategically
18 at this decisive moment in the state's economic history, the
19 legislature intends to reverse the trend of the last thirty years and
20 begin a gradual and sustained increase in the percentage of Washington
21 households living in the middle-income bracket or above.

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

24 In addition to the definitions in RCW 28C.18.010, unless the
25 context clearly requires otherwise, "middle-income bracket" means
26 family incomes between two hundred and five hundred percent of the 2010
27 federal poverty level, as determined by the United States department of
28 health and human services for a family of four, adjusted annually for
29 inflation. This is intended to create a clear and simple definition of
30 the middle-income bracket that is highly transparent to the public and
31 can be represented by a single dollar value. This definition does not
32 preclude agencies and programs from using other measures for
33 programmatic purposes, such as self-sufficiency measures or federal
34 poverty level adjusted for household size.

35 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28C.18.080 and 2009 c 421 s 6, 2009 c 151 s 7, and
36 2009 c 92 s 1 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

1 (1)(a) The board shall develop a state comprehensive plan for
2 workforce training and education for a ten-year time period that
3 incorporates information from the area comprehensive plans. The board
4 shall submit the ten-year state comprehensive plan to the governor and
5 the appropriate legislative policy committees. Every four years by
6 December 1st, beginning December 1, 2012, the board shall submit an
7 update of the ten-year state comprehensive plan for workforce training
8 and education to the governor and the appropriate legislative policy
9 committees.

10 (b) Following public hearings, the legislature shall, by concurrent
11 resolution, approve or recommend changes to the initial plan and the
12 updates. The plan shall then become the state's workforce training
13 policy unless legislation is enacted to alter the policies set forth in
14 the plan.

15 (2)(a) Area workforce development councils shall develop area
16 comprehensive plans for workforce training and education for a ten-year
17 time period. The area plans shall inform the development of the state
18 comprehensive plan.

19 (b) The area workforce development councils shall submit their
20 respective ten-year area comprehensive plans to the board. Every four
21 years by July 1st, beginning July 1, 2012, the area workforce
22 development councils shall submit an update of their respective ten-
23 year area comprehensive plans for workforce training and education to
24 the board.

25 (3) The comprehensive plan shall include workforce training role
26 and mission statements for the workforce development programs of
27 operating agencies represented on the board and sufficient specificity
28 regarding expected actions by the operating agencies to allow them to
29 carry out actions consistent with the comprehensive plan. The
30 comprehensive plan developed by the board and the area comprehensive
31 plans developed by the area workforce development councils shall
32 delineate specific strategies to reach the goal of increasing the
33 percentage of Washington households living in the middle-income bracket
34 or higher.

35 (~~(3)~~) (4) Operating agencies represented on the board shall have
36 operating plans for their workforce development efforts that are
37 consistent with the comprehensive plan and that provide detail on

1 implementation steps they will take to carry out their responsibilities
2 under the plan. Each operating agency represented on the board shall
3 provide an annual progress report to the board.

4 ~~((+4))~~ (5) The comprehensive plan shall include recommendations to
5 the legislature and the governor on the modification, consolidation,
6 initiation, or elimination of workforce training and education programs
7 in the state.

8 ~~((+5))~~ (6) The comprehensive plan shall identify the strategic
9 industry clusters targeted by the workforce development system. In
10 identifying the strategic clusters, the board shall consult with the
11 economic development commission to identify clusters that meet the
12 criteria identified by the working group convened by the economic
13 development commission and the workforce training and education
14 coordinating board under RCW 43.330.280.

15 ~~((+6))~~ (7) The board shall report to the appropriate legislative
16 policy committees by December 1st of each odd-numbered year and by
17 November 1st of each even-numbered year on its progress in implementing
18 the comprehensive plan and on the progress of the operating agencies in
19 meeting their obligations under the plan.

20 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW
21 to read as follows:

22 (1) The college board shall adopt as one of its goals to increase
23 the percentage of Washington households living in the middle-income
24 bracket, as defined in section 2 of this act, or higher. The college
25 board shall delineate specific strategies to reach the goal in existing
26 agency planning documents as they are updated, including strategic and
27 operational plans. The plans should include but not be limited to
28 recruiting and retaining more people into skills training leading to
29 middle-income occupations and increasing education and training
30 capacity for skills training that leads to middle-income careers.

31 (2) The college board shall submit to the board and the office of
32 financial management its specific agency strategies to increase the
33 percentage of people living in the middle-income bracket or higher.

34 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
35 RCW to read as follows:

36 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt as one of

1 its goals to increase the percentage of Washington households living in
2 the middle-income bracket, as defined in section 2 of this act, or
3 higher. The superintendent shall delineate specific strategies to
4 reach the goal in existing agency planning documents as they are
5 updated, including strategic and operational plans. The plans should
6 include but not be limited to reducing high school dropout rates,
7 increasing education and training capacity for skills training that
8 leads to middle-income careers, and providing internships and
9 preapprenticeship experiences to high school students to allow them to
10 experience high-demand occupations. In existing communications, and
11 using existing information from the workforce training and education
12 coordinating board, workforce development centers, the employment
13 security department, or other entities, the superintendent shall inform
14 students and parents of local careers that do not require a four-year
15 degree and that lead to incomes in the middle-income bracket or higher.

16 (2) As agency planning documents are updated, the superintendent of
17 public instruction shall submit to the workforce training and education
18 coordinating board and the office of financial management its specific
19 agency strategies to increase the percentage of people living in the
20 middle-income bracket or higher.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330 RCW
22 to read as follows:

23 (1) The department shall adopt as one of its goals to increase the
24 percentage of Washington households living in the middle-income
25 bracket, as defined in section 2 of this act, or higher. The
26 department shall delineate specific strategies to reach the goal in
27 existing agency planning documents as they are updated, including
28 strategic and operational plans. The plans should include but not be
29 limited to recruiting and retaining more people into skills training
30 leading to middle-income occupations and focusing economic development
31 strategies on growing and attracting jobs that allow Washington
32 households to live in the middle-income bracket or higher.

33 (2) As agency planning documents are updated, the department shall
34 submit to the workforce training and education coordinating board and
35 the office of financial management its specific agency strategies to
36 increase the percentage of people living in the middle-income bracket
37 or higher.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 50.12 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) The commissioner shall adopt as one of the department's goals
4 to increase the percentage of Washington households living in the
5 middle-income bracket, as defined in section 2 of this act, or higher.
6 The commissioner shall delineate specific strategies to reach the goal
7 in existing agency planning documents as they are updated, including
8 strategic and operational plans. The plans should include but not be
9 limited to recruiting and retaining more people into skills training
10 leading to middle-income occupations, and providing income support to
11 individuals while they are in such training.

12 (2) As agency planning documents are updated, the commissioner
13 shall submit to the workforce training and education coordinating board
14 and the office of financial management the department's specific
15 strategies to increase the percentage of people living in the middle-
16 income bracket or higher.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** A new section is added to chapter 43.20A RCW
18 to read as follows:

19 (1) The secretary shall adopt as one of the department's goals to
20 increase the percentage of Washington households living in the middle-
21 income bracket, as defined in section 2 of this act, or higher. The
22 secretary shall delineate specific strategies to reach the goal in
23 existing agency planning documents as they are updated, including
24 strategic and operational plans. The plans should include but not be
25 limited to focusing on temporary assistance for needy families,
26 WorkFirst, state general assistance, basic food training and
27 employment, vocational rehabilitation, and other appropriate social
28 service programs and employment in careers that lead to middle-income
29 earnings or higher, and to the extent practicable, reductions in teen
30 pregnancy, and drug and alcohol abuse prevention.

31 (2) As agency planning documents are updated, the secretary shall
32 submit to the workforce training and education coordinating board and
33 the office of financial management the department's specific strategies
34 for WorkFirst, state general assistance, vocational rehabilitation, the
35 temporary assistance for needy families program, the basic food
36 employment and training program, and other appropriate social service

1 programs as they relate to increasing the percentage of people living
2 in the middle-income bracket or higher.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A new section is added to chapter 82.01 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) The director shall adopt as one of the department's goals to
6 increase the percentage of Washington households living in the middle-
7 income bracket, as defined in section 2 of this act, or higher. The
8 director shall delineate specific strategies to reach the goal in
9 existing agency planning documents as they are updated, including
10 strategic and operational plans. The plans should include but not be
11 limited to a rating of each of the state's tax credits based on the
12 extent to which they contribute to the goal of increasing the
13 percentage of Washington households living in the middle-income bracket
14 or higher.

15 (2) As agency planning documents are updated, the director shall
16 submit to the workforce training and education coordinating board and
17 the office of financial management the department's specific strategies
18 to increase the percentage of people living in the middle-income
19 bracket or higher.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** A new section is added to chapter 49.04 RCW
21 to read as follows:

22 (1) The director of labor and industries, in consultation with the
23 Washington state apprenticeship and training council, shall adopt as
24 one of the council's goals to increase the percentage of Washington
25 households living in the middle-income bracket, as defined in section
26 2 of this act, or higher. The director shall delineate specific
27 strategies to reach the goal in existing apprenticeship planning
28 documents as they are updated, including strategic and operational
29 plans. The plans should include but not be limited to recruiting and
30 retaining more people into apprenticeship programs leading to middle-
31 income occupations.

32 (2) As apprenticeship planning documents are updated, the director
33 shall submit to the workforce training and education coordinating board
34 and the office of financial management the council's specific
35 strategies to increase the percentage of people living in the middle-
36 income bracket or higher.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** A new section is added to chapter 43.41 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) The director shall adopt as one of the office's labor relations
4 goals to increase the percentage of Washington households living in the
5 middle-income bracket, as defined in section 2 of this act, or higher.
6 The director shall delineate specific strategies to reach the goal in
7 existing agency planning documents as they are updated, including
8 strategic and operational plans. The plans should include but not be
9 limited to providing career pathways for employees in state government
10 with employment below the middle-income bracket to advance into the
11 middle-income bracket or higher.

12 (2) As agency planning documents are updated, the director shall
13 submit to the workforce training and education coordinating board the
14 office's specific labor relations strategies to increase the percentage
15 of people living in the middle-income bracket or higher.

16 **Sec. 12.** RCW 28C.18.060 and 2009 c 151 s 6 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 The board, in cooperation with the operating agencies of the state
19 training system and private career schools and colleges, shall:

20 (1) Concentrate its major efforts on planning, coordination
21 evaluation, policy analysis, and recommending improvements to the
22 state's training system;

23 (2) Advocate for the state training system and for meeting the
24 needs of employers and the workforce for workforce education and
25 training;

26 (3) Establish and maintain an inventory of the programs of the
27 state training system, and related state programs, and perform a
28 biennial assessment of the vocational education, training, and adult
29 basic education and literacy needs of the state; identify ongoing and
30 strategic education needs; and assess the extent to which employment,
31 training, vocational and basic education, rehabilitation services, and
32 public assistance services represent a consistent, integrated approach
33 to meet such needs;

34 (4) Develop and maintain a state comprehensive plan for workforce
35 training and education, including but not limited to, goals,
36 objectives, and priorities for the state training system, and review
37 the state training system for consistency with the state comprehensive

1 plan. In developing the state comprehensive plan for workforce
2 training and education, the board shall use, but shall not be limited
3 to: Economic, labor market, and populations trends reports in office
4 of financial management forecasts; joint office of financial management
5 and employment security department labor force, industry employment,
6 and occupational forecasts; the results of scientifically based
7 outcome, net-impact and cost-benefit evaluations; the needs of
8 employers as evidenced in formal employer surveys and other employer
9 input; and the needs of program participants and workers as evidenced
10 in formal surveys and other input from program participants and the
11 labor community;

12 (5) In consultation with the higher education coordinating board,
13 review and make recommendations to the office of financial management
14 and the legislature on operating and capital facilities budget requests
15 for operating agencies of the state training system for purposes of
16 consistency with the state comprehensive plan for workforce training
17 and education;

18 (6) Provide for coordination among the different operating agencies
19 and components of the state training system at the state level and at
20 the regional level;

21 (7) Develop a consistent and reliable database on vocational
22 education enrollments, costs, program activities, and job placements
23 from publicly funded vocational education programs in this state;

24 (8)(a) Establish standards for data collection and maintenance for
25 the operating agencies of the state training system in a format that is
26 accessible to use by the board. The board shall require a minimum of
27 common core data to be collected by each operating agency of the state
28 training system;

29 (b) Develop requirements for minimum common core data in
30 consultation with the office of financial management and the operating
31 agencies of the training system;

32 (9) Establish minimum standards for program evaluation for the
33 operating agencies of the state training system, including, but not
34 limited to, the use of common survey instruments and procedures for
35 measuring perceptions of program participants and employers of program
36 participants, and monitor such program evaluation;

37 (10) Every two years administer scientifically based outcome
38 evaluations of the state training system, including, but not limited

1 to, surveys of program participants, surveys of employers of program
2 participants, and matches with employment security department payroll
3 and wage files. Every five years administer scientifically based net-
4 impact and cost-benefit evaluations of the state training system;

5 (11) In cooperation with the employment security department,
6 provide for the improvement and maintenance of quality and utility in
7 occupational information and forecasts for use in training system
8 planning and evaluation. Improvements shall include, but not be
9 limited to, development of state-based occupational change factors
10 involving input by employers and employees, and delineation of skill
11 and training requirements by education level associated with current
12 and forecasted occupations;

13 (12) Provide for the development of common course description
14 formats, common reporting requirements, and common definitions for
15 operating agencies of the training system;

16 (13) Provide for effectiveness and efficiency reviews of the state
17 training system;

18 (14) In cooperation with the higher education coordinating board,
19 facilitate transfer of credit policies and agreements between
20 institutions of the state training system, and encourage articulation
21 agreements for programs encompassing two years of secondary workforce
22 education and two years of postsecondary workforce education;

23 (15) In cooperation with the higher education coordinating board,
24 facilitate transfer of credit policies and agreements between private
25 training institutions and institutions of the state training system;

26 (16) Develop policy objectives for the workforce investment act,
27 P.L. 105-220, or its successor; develop coordination criteria for
28 activities under the act with related programs and services provided by
29 state and local education and training agencies; and ensure that
30 entrepreneurial training opportunities are available through programs
31 of each local workforce investment board in the state;

32 (17) Make recommendations to the commission of student assessment,
33 the state board of education, and the superintendent of public
34 instruction, concerning basic skill competencies and essential core
35 competencies for K-12 education. Basic skills for this purpose shall
36 be reading, writing, computation, speaking, and critical thinking,
37 essential core competencies for this purpose shall be English, math,
38 science/technology, history, geography, and critical thinking. The

1 board shall monitor the development of and provide advice concerning
2 secondary curriculum which integrates vocational and academic
3 education;

4 (18) Establish and administer programs for marketing and outreach
5 to businesses and potential program participants;

6 (19) Facilitate the location of support services, including but not
7 limited to, child care, financial aid, career counseling, and job
8 placement services, for students and trainees at institutions in the
9 state training system, and advocate for support services for trainees
10 and students in the state training system;

11 (20) Facilitate private sector assistance for the state training
12 system, including but not limited to: Financial assistance, rotation
13 of private and public personnel, and vocational counseling;

14 (21) Facilitate the development of programs for school-to-work
15 transition that combine classroom education and on-the-job training,
16 including entrepreneurial education and training, in industries and
17 occupations without a significant number of apprenticeship programs;

18 (22) Include in the planning requirements for local workforce
19 investment boards a requirement that the local workforce investment
20 boards specify how entrepreneurial training is to be offered through
21 the one-stop system required under the workforce investment act, P.L.
22 105-220, or its successor;

23 (23) Encourage and assess progress for the equitable representation
24 of racial and ethnic minorities, women, and people with disabilities
25 among the students, teachers, and administrators of the state training
26 system. Equitable, for this purpose, shall mean substantially
27 proportional to their percentage of the state population in the
28 geographic area served. This function of the board shall in no way
29 lessen more stringent state or federal requirements for representation
30 of racial and ethnic minorities, women, and people with disabilities;

31 (24) Participate in the planning and policy development of governor
32 set-aside grants under P.L. 97-300, as amended;

33 (25) Administer veterans' programs, licensure of private vocational
34 schools, the job skills program, and the Washington award for
35 vocational excellence;

36 (26) Allocate funding from the state job training trust fund;

37 (27) Work with the director of (~~community, trade, and economic~~
38 ~~development~~) commerce and the economic development commission to

1 ensure coordination among workforce training priorities, the long-term
2 economic development strategy of the economic development commission,
3 and economic development and entrepreneurial development efforts,
4 including but not limited to assistance to industry clusters;

5 (28) Conduct research into workforce development programs designed
6 to reduce the high unemployment rate among young people between
7 approximately eighteen and twenty-four years of age. In consultation
8 with the operating agencies, the board shall advise the governor and
9 legislature on policies and programs to alleviate the high unemployment
10 rate among young people. The research shall include disaggregated
11 demographic information and, to the extent possible, income data for
12 adult youth. The research shall also include a comparison of the
13 effectiveness of programs examined as a part of the research conducted
14 in this subsection in relation to the public investment made in these
15 programs in reducing unemployment of young adults. The board shall
16 report to the appropriate committees of the legislature by November 15,
17 2008, and every two years thereafter. Where possible, the data
18 reported to the legislative committees should be reported in numbers
19 and in percentages;

20 (29) Review agency submissions, pursuant to sections 4 through 11
21 of this act, and rate the proposed strategies based on criteria adopted
22 by the board. The ratings shall be developed annually, concurrent with
23 annual progress reports on the state comprehensive plan for workforce
24 training and education. A report containing the ratings is due
25 annually to the legislature by November 1st in even-numbered years and
26 December 1st in odd-numbered years, beginning December 1, 2011;

27 (30) Adopt rules as necessary to implement this chapter.

28 The board may delegate to the director any of the functions of this
29 section.

30 NEW SECTION. Sec. 13. A new section is added to chapter 43.41 RCW
31 to read as follows:

32 (1) The office, in partnership with the workforce training and
33 education coordinating board, shall:

34 (a) Annually estimate the percentage of Washington residents with
35 incomes in the middle-income bracket, as defined in section 2 of this
36 act, or higher;

1 (b) Beginning December 1, 2012, and annually thereafter, report the
2 findings developed in this section to the governor and the appropriate
3 committees of the legislature.

4 (2) The office may review state contracting procedures for
5 compliance with the goal of increasing the percentage of Washington
6 households living in the middle-income bracket or higher.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** This act may be known and cited as the
8 middle class jobs act of 2011.

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