

ESHB 2626 - S COMM AMD
By Committee on Higher Education

ADOPTED 03/07/2014

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that increasing
4 educational attainment is vital to the well-being of Washingtonians and
5 critical to the health of the state's economy. Education opens doors
6 to gainful employment, higher wages, increased job benefits, improved
7 physical health, and increased civic engagement. Educated workers who
8 are capable of competing for high-demand jobs in today's global economy
9 sustain existing employers and attract new businesses. These
10 individuals with competitive higher education credentials directly
11 contribute to the state's economic growth and vitality.

12 (2) The legislature finds that workforce and labor market
13 projections estimate that by 2020 the vast majority of jobs in
14 Washington will require at least a high school diploma or equivalent
15 and seventy percent of those jobs will also require some postsecondary
16 education.

17 (3) The legislature finds that current levels of educational
18 attainment are inadequate to address the educational needs of the
19 state. In 2013, eighty-nine percent of Washington adults ages twenty-
20 five to forty-four had a high school diploma or equivalent, and less
21 than fifty percent of Washington adults ages twenty-five to forty-four
22 have a postsecondary credential.

23 (4) The legislature recognizes that one of the most important
24 duties of the student achievement council is to propose educational
25 attainment goals to the governor and legislature and develop a ten-year
26 roadmap to achieve those goals, to be updated every two years.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Acknowledging the recommendations in the
28 higher education ten-year roadmap, the legislature is encouraged by the

1 student achievement council's efforts to meet the following two goals
2 in order to meet the societal and economic needs of the future:

3 (1) All adults in Washington ages twenty-five to forty-four will
4 have a high school diploma or equivalent by 2023; and

5 (2) At least seventy percent of Washington adults ages twenty-five
6 to forty-four will have a postsecondary credential by 2023.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires July 1, 2016."

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8 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "goals;" strike the remainder
9 of the title and insert "creating new sections; and providing an
10 expiration date."

EFFECT: Returns to the intent language in the original house bill. Removes a third goal stating that the cost of tuition, where an individual resides, economic status, race or ethnicity must not be a barrier to obtain postsecondary education. Removes the direction to the student achievement council to develop and adopt strategies to enable the state to achieve the goals and report back with recommendations. Clarifies that the legislature acknowledges the recommendations of the roadmap and is encouraged by the student achievement council's efforts to meet two educational attainment goals.

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