
SENATE BILL 6161

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Senators Bailey, Frockt, Conway, McAuliffe, and Hasegawa; by request of State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

Prefiled 12/30/15. Read first time 01/11/16. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to including certain residents who do not have a
2 high school diploma or credential and the number of students expected
3 to enroll in basic education for adults courses at community and
4 technical colleges in caseload forecast council forecasting; amending
5 RCW 43.88C.010; and creating a new section.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

8 (a) Nearly three-fourths of available jobs in this state require
9 at least a postsecondary credential and that meeting this workforce
10 need requires educating older adults who lack basic education skills;

11 (b) A large number of Washington adults, possibly more than seven
12 hundred thousand, lack the knowledge and skills needed to compete in
13 today's economy and meaningfully participate in this state's
14 democracy;

15 (c) It is necessary to educate older adults who lack basic
16 education skills to meet the state's educational attainment goals
17 that all adults in the state ages twenty-five to forty-four have a
18 high school diploma or equivalent by 2023 and at least seventy
19 percent of Washington adults ages twenty-five to forty-four will have
20 a postsecondary credential by 2023;

1 (d) The community and technical colleges are responsible for
2 providing basic skills and literacy education to adults and fulfill
3 this responsibility by teaching reading, writing, mathematics,
4 technology, and English language skills to adults to prepare them to
5 earn high school diplomas or achieve high school equivalency
6 certificates; teach employability skills such as critical thinking,
7 communication, problem solving, and decision making; and offer clear
8 pathways to college-level education and credentials;

9 (e) The community and technical colleges offer an open door to
10 every resident, regardless of academic background, experience, or
11 economic means; and

12 (f) Knowledge of the true and accurate number of adults requiring
13 basic education will provide the legislature with important
14 information to potentially increase access to educational pathways
15 leading to postsecondary credentials, living wage jobs, and
16 meaningful participation in this state's democracy.

17 (2) The legislature intends to provide a regular dependable
18 forecast through the caseload forecast council to better understand
19 the need for basic education for adults in the state.

20 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.88C.010 and 2015 c 128 s 2 are each amended to
21 read as follows:

22 (1) The caseload forecast council is hereby created. The council
23 shall consist of two individuals appointed by the governor and four
24 individuals, one of whom is appointed by the chairperson of each of
25 the two largest political caucuses in the senate and house of
26 representatives. The chair of the council shall be selected from
27 among the four caucus appointees. The council may select such other
28 officers as the members deem necessary.

29 (2) The council shall employ a caseload forecast supervisor to
30 supervise the preparation of all caseload forecasts. As used in this
31 chapter, "supervisor" means the caseload forecast supervisor.

32 (3) Approval by an affirmative vote of at least five members of
33 the council is required for any decisions regarding employment of the
34 supervisor. Employment of the supervisor shall terminate after each
35 term of three years. At the end of the first year of each three-year
36 term the council shall consider extension of the supervisor's term by
37 one year. The council may fix the compensation of the supervisor. The
38 supervisor shall employ staff sufficient to accomplish the purposes
39 of this section.

1 (4) The caseload forecast council shall oversee the preparation
2 of and approve, by an affirmative vote of at least four members, the
3 official state caseload forecasts prepared under RCW 43.88C.020. If
4 the council is unable to approve a forecast before a date required in
5 RCW 43.88C.020, the supervisor shall submit the forecast without
6 approval and the forecast shall have the same effect as if approved
7 by the council.

8 (5) A councilmember who does not cast an affirmative vote for
9 approval of the official caseload forecast may request, and the
10 supervisor shall provide, an alternative forecast based on
11 assumptions specified by the member.

12 (6) Members of the caseload forecast council shall serve without
13 additional compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses
14 in accordance with RCW 44.04.120 while attending sessions of the
15 council or on official business authorized by the council.
16 Nonlegislative members of the council shall be reimbursed for travel
17 expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

18 (7) "Caseload," as used in this chapter, means:

19 (a) The number of persons expected to meet entitlement
20 requirements and require the services of public assistance programs,
21 state correctional institutions, state correctional noninstitutional
22 supervision, state institutions for juvenile offenders, the common
23 school system, long-term care, medical assistance, foster care, and
24 adoption support;

25 (b) The number of students who are eligible for the Washington
26 college bound scholarship program and are expected to attend an
27 institution of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.92.030;

28 (c) The number of children who are eligible, as defined in RCW
29 43.215.405, to participate in, and the number of children actually
30 served by, the early childhood education and assistance program.

31 (8) The caseload forecast council shall forecast the temporary
32 assistance for needy families and the working connections child care
33 programs, the number of state residents ages twenty-five to forty-
34 four who do not have a high school diploma or credential, and the
35 number of students expected to enroll in basic education for adults
36 courses at community and technical colleges, as a courtesy.

37 (9) The caseload forecast council shall forecast youth
38 participating in the extended foster care program pursuant to RCW
39 74.13.031 separately from other children who are residing in foster
40 care and who are under eighteen years of age.

1 (10) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the
2 definitions provided in RCW 43.88.020 apply to this chapter.

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