

**ESSB 5048** - H AMD TO H AMD (H-2540.1/17) **345**

By Representative Wilcox

WITHDRAWN 03/31/2017

1 On page 219, line 26, increase the general fund-state  
2 appropriation for fiscal year 2018 by \$110,000

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4 On page 219, line 27, increase the general fund-state  
5 appropriation for fiscal year 2019 by \$61,000

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7 On page 219, line 30, correct the total.

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9 On page 220, after line 9, insert the following:

10 "(4) (a) \$110,000 of the general fund-state appropriation for  
11 fiscal year 2018 and \$61,000 of the general fund-state appropriation  
12 for fiscal year 2019 are provided solely for a workforce assessment  
13 for the agriculture, natural resources, outdoor recreation, and  
14 environmental sectors. The purpose of the study is to assess the  
15 available data on current and projected employment levels and hiring  
16 demand for skilled mid-level workers in the agriculture, environment,  
17 outdoor recreation, and natural resources economic sectors in the  
18 state in order to provide educators with better information as they  
19 develop programs for informing students about potential careers.

20 (b) The study must use a broad definition for the mid-level  
21 skilled occupations included in the study and identify up to five  
22 regions of the state based on the specific workforce characteristics  
23 of agriculture, natural resources, outdoor recreation, and environment  
24 employers.

25 (c) The study must, at a minimum, include assessment of:

26 (i) Data from the employment security department on the current  
27 and projected levels of employment and net job vacancies;

1 (ii) Data used by workforce development councils in identifying  
2 demand for workers in their areas;

3 (iii) Data from the United States census bureau; and

4 (iv) Data from the United States census bureau's longitudinal  
5 employer-household dynamics dataset.

6 (d) The study must, at a minimum, identify and interview a sample  
7 of major employers from the agriculture, environment, outdoor  
8 recreation, and natural resources economic sectors in each region to  
9 assess employers' perspective and expectations on employment and  
10 hiring of skilled mid-level workers in their industry and area. The  
11 study must also include an assessment of food and fiber processing  
12 jobs in the state.

13 (e) The workforce training and education coordinating board:

14 (i) Must convene and consult with a steering committee to define  
15 the scope of mid-level skilled occupations considered, validate  
16 designation of specific regions to be analyzed, and assist in the  
17 design of information collection. The steering committee must include  
18 representatives of statewide business organizations and a staff member  
19 of the state board for community and technical colleges; and

20 (ii) May complete the study directly or, at its discretion,  
21 contract the assignment, or portions of the assignment, to a third  
22 party or parties chosen by the workforce training and education  
23 coordinating board.

24 (f) The final report must:

25 (i) Be reported by the workforce training and education  
26 coordinating board;

27 (ii) Include recommendations on current sources that provide the  
28 most representative and useful information for educators and  
29 counselors, further steps to improve the specificity, timeliness, and  
30 quality of information available on skilled workforce needs and issues  
31 in the areas of the state, and steps necessary to extend this work  
32 both into entry level and advanced level occupations, and into  
33 identification of specific skills that are key to enabling workers to  
34 be productive in this sector; and

1 (iii) Be completed and the results reported to the appropriate  
2 committees of the legislature by October 15, 2018."

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EFFECT: Requires the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (WTB) to conduct, or contract for, a workforce assessment study for the agriculture, natural resources, outdoor recreation, and environment sectors. Requires the WTB to convene a study steering committee, which must include representatives of statewide business organizations and a staff member of the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. Requires the WTB to submit a final study report to the Legislature by October 15, 2018.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Increases General Fund - State by \$171,000.

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