
SENATE BILL 5902

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Braun and Wilson

Read first time 03/21/17. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to enrollments in postsecondary certification and
2 degree programs with an emphasis in science, technology, engineering,
3 and mathematics; and adding a new section to chapter 28B.10 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) Despite an improved economy and reductions in student
8 tuition, resident undergraduate full-time student enrollment at our
9 state's institutions of higher education has, as a whole, remained
10 relatively flat at a time when the state's population of youths aged
11 eighteen to twenty-five has increased three percent. One estimate is
12 only thirty-one percent of Washington high school students go on to
13 attain a postsecondary credential.

14 Studies show that a postsecondary certification and degree
15 programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)
16 are a gateway to a high paying career. However, there are acute
17 shortages in high-demand programs of study, particularly in STEM, at
18 our state's institutions of higher education. Moreover, our state's
19 economy is highly dependent upon jobs that require STEM degrees.

20 In order to better match state resources to the current needs of
21 the state's students and employers and workforce, the legislature

1 intends to increase resident undergraduate student enrollments at our
2 state institutions of higher education with a particular emphasis on
3 students seeking STEM certification and degree programs.

4 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
5 specific purpose, the legislature intends to increase full-time
6 equivalent state-supported resident undergraduate student enrollment
7 at our state's institutions of higher education.

8 (a) At least seventy percent of the moneys must be provided for
9 enrollments in postsecondary certification and degree programs in
10 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

11 (b) The remaining thirty percent of the moneys must be provided
12 for enrollments in other areas of study. Unless otherwise specified
13 in the omnibus operating appropriations act, institutions of higher
14 education have the discretion to direct enrollments to other high-
15 demand certification and degree programs that meet the unserved needs
16 of students and employers.

17 (c) Each institution must report work with the education research
18 and data center to identify these students separately from other
19 enrollments. By September 1st of each year, each institution shall
20 provide a report including, but not limited to, the cost per student,
21 area of study, and progress toward graduation and degree completion.
22 The education research and data center may also require additional
23 information to be used to measure the success of the use of the funds
24 for additional enrollments.

25 (d) The institution must report to the office of financial
26 management on the number of additional resident undergraduate
27 enrollments achieved with the funds. If enrollment expectations are
28 not achieved, any unspent funds for additional enrollments must
29 lapse. The office must provide a recommendation to the legislature
30 whether funding to that institution should continue or be allocated
31 to another institution.

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