
Postsecondary Education & Workforce Committee

HB 1030

Brief Description: Concerning applied doctorate degree-granting authority.

Sponsors: Representatives Leavitt, Jacobsen, Pollet, Reeves and Bronoske.

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Authorizes the board of trustees of the regional universities to offer applied, but not research, doctorate degrees.
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Hearing Date: 1/11/23

Staff: Saranda Ross (786-7068).

Background:

Eastern Washington University offers applied, but not research, doctorate degrees in physical therapy. Western Washington University offers applied, but not research, doctorate degrees in audiology. The boards of trustees of the regional universities (boards) offer applied, but not research, doctorate degrees in education. The boards do not have broad authority to offer applied doctorate degrees.

Generally, an applied doctorate degree is designed for advanced professional practice focusing on the application of existing research and knowledge applied in the field, rather than on the creation of new research for the field. A typical applied doctorate program includes classroom study, field placements, and administrative practice.

Summary of Bill:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The board of trustees of the regional universities may offer applied, but not research, doctorate level degrees. The three statutes authorizing Eastern Washington University, Western Washington University, and the boards of trustees of the regional universities to offer very specific applied, but not research, doctorate degrees, are repealed.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 9, 2023.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.