

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1870

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*As Reported By House Committee on:  
Higher Education  
Appropriations*

**Title:** An act relating to higher education.

**Brief Description:** Providing higher education opportunities for people in economically depressed timber regions.

**Sponsor(s):** Representatives Jones, Basich, Hargrove, Jacobsen, Riley, Fuhrman, R. Johnson, Wilson, Wineberry, Morris, Miller, Wynne, Wood, D. Sommers, Roland, Brumsickle, Rasmussen, Sprenkle and Orr.

**Brief History:**

Reported by House Committee on:  
Higher Education, March 4, 1991, DPS;  
Appropriations, March 10, 1991, DPS(HE)-A.

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**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
HIGHER EDUCATION**

**Majority Report:** *That Substitute House Bill No. 1870 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.* Signed by 12 members: Representatives Jacobsen, Chair; Ogden, Vice Chair; Wood, Ranking Minority Member; Basich; Dellwo; Fraser; Ludwig; Miller; Prince; Sheldon; Spanel; and Van Loven.

**Minority Report:** *Without recommendation.* Signed by 1 member: Representative May, Assistant Ranking Minority Member.

**Staff:** Marilee Scarbrough (786-7196).

**Background:** Declines in the federal timber supply will have a significant economic impact on the state of Washington. Most of the job losses will occur in rural, timber dependent counties which have not experienced economic growth similar to the metropolitan areas. Generally, the impacted regions of the state do not have the economic diversity of the rest of the state. Furthermore, their isolation from transportation corridors and metropolitan centers reduces the opportunity for diversification. Impacted workers in timber dependent communities are also more likely to be

older and have less formal education than other dislocated workers.

Community colleges located in timber dependent communities currently offer training in basic skills, career planning and vocational programs that are beneficial to displaced timber workers. Community colleges also have strong guidance programs to assist in career planning. Those services are currently provided within the enrollment limits of the community college. As the numbers of dislocated timber workers rise, the percentage of those who are unable to enroll in community colleges will also increase. Recent estimates predict a 14 percent unemployment rate in Grays Harbor due to declining timber supply. The projected unemployment rate in Clallam county is 13 percent.

***Summary of Substitute Bill:*** The State Board for Community College Education shall administer a program for dislocated timber workers. The board shall distribute funds to community colleges, appoint an advisory committee, and monitor the program.

The State Board for Community College Education is allocated 500 additional full-time equivalent students per year. The tuition, services and activities fees are waived for dislocated timber workers or their spouses enrolled as one of the additional full-time equivalent students authorized in the legislation. Others in the community may pay tuition and fees for the remaining space available.

The student eligibility criteria is outlined. A timber worker is eligible if, within the past five years, the worker was employed in the timber industry on a full-time basis for at least six months each year, and if loss of employment is due to reduction in work force.

The Higher Education Coordinating Board shall administer a program designed to provide upper division higher education opportunities to dislocated timber workers. The board shall distribute funding for an institution of higher education to provide classes in Clallam county.

The board shall contract with an institution of higher education to provide upper division classes to serve 50 full-time equivalent students per year in Clallam County. The institution shall waive the tuition, service and activities fees for dislocated workers or their spouses, enrolled as one of the additional full-time equivalent students authorized in the legislation. Others in the community may pay tuition and fees for the remaining space available.

Two million nine-hundred and thirty-eight dollars is appropriated to the State Board for Community College Education to carry out the purposes of the act. Five hundred forty-six thousand dollars is appropriated to the Higher Education Coordinating Board to carry out the purposes of the act.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** The substitute bill provides that the State Board for Community College Education is allocated 500 additional full-time equivalent students per year. The state board will distribute the full-time equivalent positions to community colleges which are attended by dislocated timber workers or their spouses. The substitute bill defines dislocated timber worker and timber distressed counties. The substitute clarifies eligibility requirements for a dislocated timber worker. The appropriation to the State Board for Community College Education is increased to \$2,938,000.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Appropriation:** Yes.

**Effective Date of Substitute Bill:** The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.

**Testimony For:** Timber workers need continuing education. This legislation would provide re-training opportunities. Grays Harbor and Peninsula community colleges each need at least an additional 150 full-time equivalent student positions. Clallam County needs upper division courses. The community is four hours away from the nearest four-year institution. Many individuals on the Peninsula are placebound. There is a need for additional space at the community colleges. The community colleges are already beginning to feel the pressure from dislocated timber workers who wish to enroll. Community colleges are prepared to develop appropriate training programs to meet the needs of dislocated timber workers.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Witnesses:** Representative Jones; Steve Rogers, Principal, Port Angeles High School; and Gene Sherman, Grays Harbor Community College.

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**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS**

**Majority Report:** *The substitute bill by Committee on Higher Education be substituted therefor and the substitute bill as amended by Committee on Appropriations do pass.* Signed by 24 members: Representatives Locke, Chair; Inslee, Vice Chair; Spanel, Vice Chair; Silver, Ranking Minority Member; Morton, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Appelwick; Belcher; Bowman; Braddock; Brekke; Dorn; Ebersole; Fuhrman; Hine; Lisk; McLean; Nealey; Peery; Pruitt; Rust; H. Sommers; Valle; Wang; and Wineberry.

**Minority Report:** *Do not pass.* Signed by 1 member: Representative Ferguson.

**Staff:** Sherie Story (786-7142).

**Summary of Recommendation of Committee on Appropriations Compared to Recommendation of Committee on Higher Education:** The definition of "dislocated timber worker" is made consistent with the definition in SHB 1314 and SHB 1315, as amended by the Committee on Appropriations. A definition is added for "timber-dependent community" that is consistent with SHB 1341. The term "timber-distressed county" is replaced with "timber-dependent community" throughout the bill. The community college enrollment increase is changed from 500 full-time-equivalent students per year to 250 in fiscal year 1992, and 500 in fiscal year 1993. The provision that allocated increases in community college enrollment can be used for persons other than dislocated timber workers or their spouses is removed. The number of academic quarters in a two-year time period is clarified to be six, and enrollment for a minimum of 10 credits is made the consistent definition for a student to be considered "full-time." The appropriations are removed and the act is made null and void if not specifically funded in the budget. An expiration date of July 1, 1995 is added.

**Fiscal Note:** Fiscal note on the substitute bill as amended by the Committee on Appropriations requested March 11, 1991.

**Appropriation:** Removed.

**Effective Date of Substitute Bill as Amended:** The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.

**Testimony For:** This is the worst time for timber-dependent counties since the depression. House bills 1870 and 1341 provide the additional training opportunities these counties

need. The language in these two bills should be reconciled so that the same definitions apply in both.

***Testimony Against:*** None.

***Witnesses:*** Representative Robert Basich; Representative Timothy Sheldon; Representative Evan Jones; Representative Mike Riley; Representative Mary Margaret Haugen; Pat Greene, the State Board for Community College Education; and Jewell Manspeaker, Grays Harbor Community College.