
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6138

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Senators Kohl-Welles, Carlson, Rasmussen, Schmidt and McAuliffe)

READ FIRST TIME 01/23/04.

1 AN ACT Relating to a master plan for education from prekindergarten
2 through university; creating new sections; and providing an expiration
3 date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

6 (1) Education is the most important function of Washington state
7 and is essential to the economic health, cultural diversity, civic
8 vitality, and political well-being of the state and the nation;

9 (2) There is significant evidence that citizens benefit by having
10 an opportunity to access the education and training that will allow
11 them to grow personally and professionally, address their future
12 economic needs and those of their families, and to contribute to the
13 healthy future of not only themselves and their families but also to
14 the community at large;

15 (3) Research supports that children's chances to succeed in school
16 increase if they participate in high quality preschool and early
17 childhood education programs;

18 (4) Our public schools, through education reform, are expected to
19 prepare an evergrowing number of high school graduates for entry into

1 postsecondary education or the increasingly competitive work
2 environment. Improving K-12 education will also reduce the need for
3 remedial education at our colleges and universities;

4 (5) The state will need to provide higher education opportunities
5 for at least a projected thirty-three thousand six hundred more
6 citizens by the year 2010 just to maintain current postsecondary
7 participation rates;

8 (6) A growing number of citizens affected by the fluctuations in
9 the economic climate and shifts in employment opportunities enter and
10 reenter the state's educational institutions to prepare for
11 participation in the rapidly changing workplace;

12 (7) Washington's citizens would be better served through access to
13 high quality education without institutional or organizational barriers
14 to ensure smooth progress through all levels of education they desire;
15 and

16 (8) Washington does not have a seamless education system nor does
17 it have a system of coordinated education planning. Collaboration and
18 coordination among all sectors of education including but not limited
19 to prekindergarten, the K-12 system, the community and technical
20 college system, the four-year college and universities, and the
21 independent colleges and private career schools is essential to develop
22 an educated citizenry.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The senate committees on education and
24 higher education and the house of representatives committees on
25 education and higher education shall work collaboratively to study and
26 make recommendations on creating a master plan for education from
27 prekindergarten through university. The work of the committees will be
28 to develop recommendations to the legislature on developing a plan to
29 support students' needs, focusing on the organization and management of
30 delivery systems, to achieve the goal of eliminating barriers to a
31 seamless education. The recommendations will address but not be
32 limited to issues of access, achievement, accountability,
33 affordability, and quality of our schools and institutions of higher
34 education. In developing the recommendations, the committees shall
35 involve interested parties including but not limited to: Educators
36 including staff, faculty, administration, and governing board members,
37 from both the public and private sector; regional and national public

1 policy groups and state organizations; advocacy groups; researchers;
2 business and labor leaders; community leaders; parents; and students.
3 An interim report shall be completed by December 1, 2004. The final
4 report shall be completed by December 1, 2005, if needed.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The legislative work group shall use
6 legislative facilities and staff from senate committee services and the
7 office of program research.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act expires December 31, 2005.

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