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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2630**

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**State of Washington**

**59th Legislature**

**2006 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Kenney, Cox, Kessler, Priest, Conway, Hunter, Buri, Fromhold, Sells, Grant, Ormsby, Quall, Haigh, Clements, Roberts, Upthegrove, McDermott, Hasegawa, Santos, Flannigan, Appleton, Rodne, Clibborn, Simpson, Linville, Kagi, Dickerson, P. Sullivan, Morrell, Moeller, Ericks and Kilmer)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/06.

1 AN ACT Relating to postsecondary education, including creating the  
2 opportunity grant program; adding new sections to chapter 28B.50 RCW;  
3 creating new sections; making appropriations; providing an expiration  
4 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

7 (1) Increasing Washington's economic competitiveness requires  
8 increasing the supply of skilled workers in the state; and

9 (2) Improving the labor market competitiveness of all Washington  
10 residents requires that all residents have access to postsecondary  
11 education.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW  
13 to read as follows:

14 (1) The college board and a nonprofit organization that has been  
15 established to address work force development issues by a recognized  
16 statewide organization of employers representing a majority of  
17 employers in the state shall, in consultation with the work force

1 training and education coordinating board, a statewide labor  
2 organization, and a statewide high-technology organization:

3 (a) Identify high demand occupations, which are occupations where  
4 employer demand for workers exceeds the supply of qualified job  
5 applicants;

6 (b) Convene or use existing industry groups, such as industry skill  
7 panels or other industry or occupational entities, to identify the  
8 skill sets that workers need in the high demand occupations;

9 (c) Develop and identify credentials and credit-bearing curriculum  
10 recognized by postsecondary institutions and employers statewide and  
11 that are based on the attainment of the skill sets needed in  
12 occupations in high demand sectors;

13 (d) Market the credentials or certificates and credit-bearing  
14 curriculum to potential students and employers as a way for them to  
15 advance in their careers; and

16 (e) Gain recognition of the credentials or certificates and credit-  
17 bearing curriculum by employers.

18 (2) In carrying out the functions of this section, the college  
19 board shall give priority to high demand occupations in industry  
20 sectors important to the economic growth of the state.

21 (3) The college board may, in implementing this section, accept,  
22 use, and dispose of contributions of money, services, and property.  
23 All moneys received by the college board for the purposes of this  
24 section must be deposited in a depository approved by the state  
25 treasurer. Disbursements of such funds shall be on authorization of  
26 the college board or a duly authorized representative thereof. In  
27 order to maintain an effective expenditure and revenue control, such  
28 funds are subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no  
29 appropriation is required to permit expenditure of such funds.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW  
31 to read as follows:

32 (1) The college board shall develop and implement a work force  
33 education program known as the opportunity grant program to provide  
34 funding for low-income students enrolled in the program, including but  
35 not limited to funding tuition, books, and fees. The college board  
36 must:

1 (a) Begin developing the program no later than March 15, 2006, with  
2 student enrollment to begin no later than January 1, 2007; and

3 (b) Submit a progress report to the fiscal and higher education  
4 committees of the legislature by January 15, 2008.

5 (2) The college board may, in implementing the opportunity grant  
6 program, accept, use, and dispose of contributions of money, services,  
7 and property. All moneys received by the college board for the program  
8 must be deposited in a depository approved by the state treasurer.  
9 Disbursements of such funds shall be on authorization of the college  
10 board or a duly authorized representative thereof. In order to  
11 maintain an effective expenditure and revenue control, such funds are  
12 subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is  
13 required to permit expenditure of such funds.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The Washington state institute for  
15 public policy shall conduct a study to include:

16 (a) A review of and recommendations for consolidating and  
17 simplifying the delivery of state-funded and federally funded work  
18 force education programs and work force education aid offered to  
19 students in this state, with a goal of achieving easier access to  
20 postsecondary education for students;

21 (b) A description of barriers that exist to combining work force  
22 education programs and work force education aid, such as state or  
23 federal statutes, rules, or regulations, and the relief that may be  
24 available through federal waivers;

25 (c) An estimate of the funding gap between available work force  
26 education aid and the financial needs of students living in this state;

27 (d) A description of barriers to access to and completion of work  
28 force education programs in this state; and

29 (e) Recommendations for increasing participation and completion  
30 rates for work force education programs.

31 (2) The Washington state institute for public policy shall review  
32 the costs and benefits of creating a universal K-14 system.

33 (3) The Washington state institute for public policy must submit  
34 its report on the study to the fiscal and higher education committees  
35 of the legislature by November 15, 2006, and must coordinate its study  
36 and research with the Washington Learns study of postsecondary  
37 education.

1 (4) The Washington state institute for public policy may, in  
2 carrying out this study, accept, use, and dispose of contributions of  
3 money, services, and property. All moneys received by the institute  
4 for the study must be deposited in a depository approved by the state  
5 treasurer. Disbursements of such funds shall be on authorization of  
6 the institute or a duly authorized representative thereof. In order to  
7 maintain an effective expenditure and revenue control, such funds are  
8 subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is  
9 required to permit expenditure of such funds.

10 (5) For purposes of this section:

11 (a) "Financial needs" includes but is not limited to tuition,  
12 books, fees, tools, living expenses, and child care expenses.

13 (b) "Work force education aid" means financial aid, funded from  
14 state or federal sources, provided to students enrolled in work force  
15 education programs.

16 (c) "Work force education programs" means education and skills  
17 training, including vocational education, apprenticeships, adult basic  
18 education linked to vocational education, work force education under  
19 RCW 28C.18.010, work force training provided under chapter 74.08A RCW,  
20 and any other related work force training program.

21 (6) This section expires December 31, 2006.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The sum of seventy-five thousand  
23 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for  
24 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, from the general fund to the  
25 state board for community and technical colleges for the purposes of  
26 section 2 of this act. Expenditure of moneys appropriated in this  
27 subsection is contingent on receipt of matching financial support from  
28 a nonstate source. Financial support may include but not be limited  
29 to: Funds, equipment, facilities, and staff time.

30 (2) The sum of five million dollars, or as much thereof as may be  
31 necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007,  
32 from the general fund to the state board for community and technical  
33 colleges for the purposes of section 3 of this act.

34 (3) The sum of seventy-five thousand dollars, or as much thereof as  
35 may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
36 2007, from the general fund to the Washington institute for public  
37 policy for the purposes of section 4 of this act.

1        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 6.**   This act is necessary for the immediate  
2   preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
3   state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
4   immediately.

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