
SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2630

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By House Committee on Appropriations (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; and providing an expiration date.

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

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

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

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

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

13 (1) The college board and a nonprofit organization that has been
14 established to address work force development issues by a recognized
15 statewide organization of employers representing a majority of
16 employers in the state shall, in consultation with the work force
17 training and education coordinating board, a statewide labor
18 organization, and a statewide high-technology organization:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (b) Submit a progress report to the legislature by January 15,
2 2008.

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

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) Subject to approval of the board, the
13 Washington state institute for public policy shall conduct a study to
14 include:

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

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

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

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

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

30 (2) The Washington state institute for public policy must submit
31 its report on the study to the legislature by November 15, 2006, and
32 must coordinate its study and research with the Washington Learns study
33 of postsecondary education.

34 (3) The Washington state institute for public policy may, in
35 carrying out this study, accept, use, and dispose of contributions of
36 money, services, and property. All moneys received by the institute
37 for the study must be deposited in a depository approved by the state

1 treasurer. Disbursements of such funds shall be on authorization of
2 the institute or a duly authorized representative thereof. In order to
3 maintain an effective expenditure and revenue control, such funds are
4 subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is
5 required to permit expenditure of such funds.

6 (4) For purposes of this section:

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

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

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

17 (5) This section expires December 31, 2006.

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