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HOUSE BILL 2630

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State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2006 Regular Session

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 01/11/2006.                      Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Education.

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 shall, with the assistance of the work force  
15 training and education coordinating board and a nonprofit organization  
16 that has been established to address work force development issues by  
17 a recognized statewide organization of employers representing a  
18 majority of employers in the state:

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 credentials that are recognized by postsecondary  
8 institutions and employers statewide and that are based on the  
9 attainment of the skill sets needed in occupations in high demand  
10 sectors;

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

13 (e) Gain recognition of the credentials or certificates by  
14 employers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (2) The college board may, in implementing the opportunity grant  
2 program, accept, use, and dispose of contributions of money, services,  
3 and property. All moneys received by the college board for the program  
4 must be deposited in a depository approved by the state treasurer.  
5 Disbursements of such funds shall be on authorization of the college  
6 board 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 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The Washington state institute for  
11 public policy shall conduct a study to include:

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

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

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

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

25 (e) Recommendations for increasing participation and completion  
26 rates for work force education programs.

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

29 (3) The Washington state institute for public policy must submit  
30 its report on the study to the fiscal and higher education committees  
31 of the legislature by November 15, 2006.

32 (4) The Washington state institute for public policy may, in  
33 carrying out this study, accept, use, and dispose of contributions of  
34 money, services, and property. All moneys received by the institute  
35 for the study must be deposited in a depository approved by the state  
36 treasurer. Disbursements of such funds shall be on authorization of  
37 the institute or a duly authorized representative thereof. In order to

1 maintain an effective expenditure and revenue control, such funds are  
2 subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is  
3 required to permit expenditure of such funds.

4 (5) For purposes of this section:

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

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

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

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

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The sum of seventy-five thousand  
17 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for  
18 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, from the general fund to the  
19 state board for community and technical colleges for the purposes of  
20 section 2 of this act. Expenditure of moneys appropriated in this  
21 subsection is contingent on receipt of matching funds from a nonstate  
22 source.

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

27 (3) The sum of seventy-five thousand dollars, or as much thereof as  
28 may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
29 2007, from the general fund to the Washington institute for public  
30 policy for the purposes of section 4 of this act.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
32 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
33 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
34 immediately.

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