

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2817

59th Legislature
2006 Regular Session

Passed by the House March 4, 2006
Yeas 95 Nays 0

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate March 3, 2006
Yeas 48 Nays 0

President of the Senate

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Richard Nafziger, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2817** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

Chief Clerk

FILED

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2817

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2006 Regular Session

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By House Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Education
(originally sponsored by Representatives Sells, McCoy, Strow,
Dunshee, Lovick, Jarrett, Morris, Ormsby, Morrell, Haler, O'Brien,
Fromhold, Ericks, Kilmer and B. Sullivan)

READ FIRST TIME 2/3/06.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a state priority and state
2 objectives for access, enrollment, delivery, and degree achievements in
3 the fields of engineering, technology, biotechnology, science, computer
4 science, and mathematics in higher education; and adding new sections
5 to chapter 28B.10 RCW.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10 RCW
8 to read as follows:

9 (1) The legislature recognizes the vital importance to the state's
10 economic prosperity and the economic benefit of placing a priority on
11 enrolling and conferring degrees upon students in the fields of
12 engineering, technology, biotechnology, science, computer science, and
13 mathematics.

14 (2) The legislature has significant concerns that other countries
15 are outpacing the United States in graduating qualified engineers, and
16 that major corporations within Washington state are searching out-of-
17 state and even outside the United States to find the qualified and
18 trained employees they need.

1 (3) Data compiled by the technology alliance shows that Washington
2 state ranks thirty-fourth among the fifty states in the percentage of
3 residents who have earned a science or engineering degree, per capita.

4 (4) Data collected by the office of financial management indicates
5 that between the academic years of 1993-94 and 2003-04 at public four-
6 year institutions of higher education in Washington state:

7 (a) There was a twelve percent decline in the number of full-time
8 equivalents enrolled in the fields of engineering and related
9 technologies; and

10 (b) There was nearly a nine percent decline in the number of
11 bachelor's degrees conferred in the fields of engineering and related
12 technologies.

13 (5) Data collected by the office of financial management also shows
14 that for the 2003-04 academic year, only four percent of all full-time
15 equivalents were enrolled in engineering and related technologies and
16 just two percent of all full-time equivalents were enrolled in computer
17 science studies at public four-year institutions of higher education in
18 the state.

19 (6) Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to promote
20 increased access, delivery models, enrollment slots, and degree
21 opportunities in the fields of engineering, technology, biotechnology,
22 sciences, computer sciences, and mathematics. It is recognized that
23 these areas of study and training are integrally linked to ensuring
24 that Washington state's economy can compete nationally and globally in
25 the twenty-first century marketplace. It is also recognized that
26 community colleges play a unique role in supporting degree attainment
27 in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
28 through the development of transferable curricula and the maintenance
29 of viable articulation agreements with both public and private
30 universities.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10 RCW
32 to read as follows:

33 (1) A state priority is established for institutions of higher
34 education, including community colleges, to encourage growing numbers
35 of enrollments and degrees in the fields of engineering, technology,
36 biotechnology, sciences, computer sciences, and mathematics.

1 (2) In meeting this state priority, the legislature understands and
2 recognizes that the demands of the economic marketplace and the desires
3 of students are not always on parallel tracks. Therefore, institutions
4 of higher education shall determine local student demand for programs
5 in the fields of engineering, technology, biotechnology, sciences,
6 computer sciences, and mathematics and submit findings and proposed
7 alternatives to meet demand to the higher education coordinating board
8 and the legislature by November 1, 2008.

9 (3) While it is understood that these areas of emphasis should not
10 be the sole focus of institutions of higher education. It is the
11 intent of the legislature that steady progress in these areas occur.
12 The higher education coordinating board shall track and report progress
13 in the fields of engineering, technology, biotechnology, sciences,
14 computer sciences, and mathematics including, but not limited to, the
15 following information:

16 (a) The number of students enrolled in these fields on a biennial
17 basis;

18 (b) The number of associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees
19 conferred in these fields on a biennial basis;

20 (c) The amount of expenditures in enrollment and degree programs in
21 these fields; and

22 (d) The number and type of public-private partnerships established
23 relating to these fields among institutions of higher education,
24 including community colleges, and leading corporations in Washington
25 state.

26 (4) Institutions of higher education, including community colleges,
27 shall be provided discretion and flexibility in achieving the
28 objectives under this section. Examples of the types of institutional
29 programs that may help achieve these objectives include, but are not
30 limited to, establishment of institutes of technology, new polytechnic-
31 based institutions, new divisions of existing institutions, and a
32 flexible array of delivery models, including face-to-face learning,
33 interactive courses, internet-based offerings, and instruction on main
34 campuses, branch campuses, and other educational centers.

35 (5) The legislature recognizes the global needs of the economic
36 marketplace for technologically prepared graduates, and the
37 relationship between technology industries and higher education.
38 Institutions of higher education, including community colleges, are

1 strongly urged to consider science, engineering, and technology program
2 growth in areas of the state that exhibit a high concentration of
3 aerospace, biotechnology, and technology industrial presence. Expanded
4 science and technology programs can gain from the proximity of
5 experienced and knowledgeable industry leaders, while industry can
6 benefit from access to new sources of highly trained and educated
7 graduates.

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