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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5360**

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**State of Washington**

**59th Legislature**

**2005 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education  
(originally sponsored by Senators Brandland, Sheldon, Fairley,  
Berkey, Delvin, Benson and Rockefeller)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to studying performance and funding of running  
2 start students; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that students  
5 require a strong foundation of academic knowledge and skills to succeed  
6 in college-level, credit-bearing courses. The intent of the current  
7 educational reform is to provide all students of the state with those  
8 foundational skills essential for success beyond high school.  
9 Attainment of the certificate of academic achievement is evidence that  
10 students have achieved these foundational, essential skills and, in  
11 combination with a rigorous course of study throughout their high  
12 school experience, should form that basis of knowledge and skills to  
13 best ensure they are prepared for college-level coursework.

14 (2) The legislature also recognizes that students need a variety of  
15 educational environments and options to perform to their potential.  
16 The running start program provides just such an environment for a  
17 segment of our high school students. The legislature intends to offer  
18 options and opportunity to students to pursue postsecondary education.  
19 In preparing all students for success beyond high school, our state's

1 schools have been asked to perform at levels previously not expected of  
2 them. Particularly, these higher expectations of schools and students  
3 were implemented after the running start program was created.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Within current budgets, the office of  
5 the superintendent of public instruction, with the assistance of the  
6 state board for community and technical colleges and the higher  
7 education coordinating board, shall conduct a study of student  
8 performance on the high school Washington assessment of student  
9 learning and subsequent performance at institutions of higher education  
10 for students participating in the running start program. The study  
11 shall include:

12 (a) Correlations between student scores on the high school  
13 Washington assessment of student learning and placement tests used at  
14 the state community and technical colleges and the baccalaureate  
15 institutions;

16 (b) Correlations between student scores on the high school  
17 Washington assessment of student learning, placement tests used at the  
18 state community and technical colleges and the baccalaureate  
19 institutions, and student performance in courses taken under the  
20 running start program;

21 (c) Completion rates of courses taken by running start students at  
22 institutions of higher education when students have met the proficiency  
23 standard on the high school Washington assessment of student learning;

24 (d) Causes for students not completing courses under the running  
25 start program; and

26 (e) The current running start funding formulas and any  
27 recommendations for changes to the distribution of funds between school  
28 districts and institutions of higher education.

29 (2) The study shall be completed by January 15, 2006, and the  
30 results reported to the governor, the state board of education, and the  
31 fiscal and education committees of the senate and the house of  
32 representatives.

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