

SSB 5731 - H COMM AMD  
By Committee on Higher Education

ADOPTED AND ENGROSSED 04/11/2007

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The state of Washington leads the nation in  
4 providing employment for people with baccalaureate degrees, but only  
5 ranks thirty-sixth in the nation in the production of degrees.  
6 Beginning in 2007 it is estimated that for job openings in Washington  
7 that require a bachelor's degree, forty-seven percent will be in fields  
8 identified as high demand or high impact, but that only fourteen  
9 percent of Washington students each year graduate with degrees in one  
10 of these fields. Washington ranks among the top ten states in  
11 scientists and computer specialists employed per capita and leads the  
12 nation in engineers employed per capita, but must import employees to  
13 meet employer demands. Additionally, Washington does not produce a  
14 sufficient number of newly prepared workers in areas that require more  
15 than one year but less than four years of higher education. The in-  
16 state supply at this mid-level of education and training is sufficient  
17 to fill only eighty-three percent of employer job openings that require  
18 that level of training. Therefore, the legislature finds that  
19 Washington needs to produce eight to ten thousand additional  
20 baccalaureate degrees per year so that Washington employers will not  
21 have to look out of state to find employees. The legislature further  
22 finds that Washington needs to enroll over fourteen thousand additional  
23 students at the mid-level of education and training in order to meet  
24 employer demand.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A committee on the education of students  
26 in high demand fields is established to:

27 (a) Develop a plan to increase the number of baccalaureate degrees  
28 granted by Washington institutions of higher education by ten thousand

1 per year and to significantly increase the number of certificates and  
2 associate degrees granted by 2020 with a special emphasis directed  
3 toward high impact, high demand areas of study;

4 (b) Develop a marketing project to inform students, parents, and  
5 educators of opportunities in high demand fields;

6 (c) Investigate ways to motivate students to take more mathematics  
7 and science courses in high school and college; and

8 (d) Identify ways that the business community can enter into more  
9 partnerships with the state to ensure that Washington institutions of  
10 higher education produce graduates in high demand fields that are ready  
11 and able to find employment in Washington.

12 (2) The committee shall be cochaired by a member of the house of  
13 representatives and a member of the senate. It shall consist of:

14 (a) Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the  
15 speaker of the house of representatives;

16 (b) Two members of the senate, with one appointed by each major  
17 caucus of the senate;

18 (c) One person representing the higher education coordinating  
19 board, appointed by the director of the board;

20 (d) One person representing the state board for community and  
21 technical colleges, appointed by the director of the state board;

22 (e) One person representing the state workforce training and  
23 education coordinating board, appointed by the director of the board;

24 (f) One person representing the office of the superintendent of  
25 public instruction, appointed by the superintendent of public  
26 instruction;

27 (g) One person representing each of the following, appointed by the  
28 governor:

29 (i) The labor council;

30 (ii) The council of presidents;

31 (iii) The prosperity partnership;

32 (iv) The council of faculty representatives; and

33 (v) One employer of persons in high demand fields; and

34 (h) A graduate student member of the Washington student lobby,  
35 appointed by the governor.

36 (3) The committee shall receive staff and logistical support from  
37 senate committee services and the office of program research.

1           (4) The committee shall report its findings and recommendations to  
2 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2007.  
3           (5) This section expires December 31, 2007."

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