

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SHB 2582

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### As Amended by the Senate

**Title:** An act relating to child care at institutions of higher education.

**Brief Description:** Regarding child care at institutions of higher education.

**Sponsors:** By House Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Roberts, Hasegawa, Ormsby, Jarrett, Sells, Williams, Appleton, McIntire, Goodman, Green and Quall).

### Brief History:

#### Committee Activity:

Higher Education: 1/16/08, 1/24/08 [DPS];

Appropriations: 2/6/08, 2/8/08 [DPS(HE)].

#### Floor Activity:

Passed House: 2/13/08, 96-0.

Senate Amended.

Passed Senate: 3/6/08, 47-0.

### Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Changes a child care grant program previously available on a competitive basis to a program that awards competitive or matching grants to state institutions of higher education.
- Requires the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) to proportionally distribute funds based on the financial support for child care received by the student government associations at four-year institutions of higher education.
- Requires the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) to establish guidelines for an allocation system for two-year institutions of higher education.

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## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Majority Report:** The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 10 members: Representatives Wallace, Chair; Sells, Vice Chair; Anderson, Ranking Minority Member; Hankins, Hasegawa, Jarrett, McIntire, Roberts, Schmick and Sommers.

**Staff:** Andi Smith (786-7304).

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## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

**Majority Report:** The substitute bill by Committee on Higher Education be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 30 members: Representatives Sommers, Chair; Dunshee, Vice Chair; Alexander, Ranking Minority Member; Haler, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Anderson, Chandler, Cody, Conway, Darneille, Ericks, Fromhold, Green, Haigh, Hinkle, Hunt, Hunter, Kagi, Kessler, Kretz, Linville, McIntire, Morrell, Pettigrew, Priest, Ross, Schmick, Schual-Berke, Seaquist, Sullivan and Walsh.

**Staff:** Debbie Driver (786-7143).

### **Background:**

The Institutional Child Care Grant program was established in 1999 to promote high-quality, accessible, and affordable child care for students attending the state's public colleges and universities. Grants were made available, on a competitive basis, to institutions of higher education requiring the college or university administration and the student government association at each receiving institution to match the grant amount received from the state. The Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) was tasked with administering the grants to the public and four-year institutions. The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) administered the program for community and technical colleges.

All of the public baccalaureate institutions have received funds since the program began in 1999. The HECB awarded grants totaling \$165,000 during the 2007-09 biennium, which represents \$150,000 in 07-09 biennial funding and \$15,000 of carry over from the 2005-07 biennium. Four of the six public colleges and universities submitted proposals and received the following allocations to be used over the course of two years:

- Washington State University, \$61,033;
- University of Washington, \$11,794;
- Western Washington University, \$68,794; and
- The Evergreen State College, \$23,094.

Each institution used the grants in various ways, but in general, funds were used to maintain affordability, add capacity by hiring additional staff and/or providing training to current staff, as well as expanding program availability to different populations or during different hours.

Nineteen of the 34 community and technical colleges have been awarded funds through the program. The SBCTC awarded grants totaling \$100,000 during the 2007-09 biennium. Grants

ranging from \$11,000 to \$30,000 were awarded to the community colleges of Bellevue, Edmonds, Green River, Skagit Valley, and South Seattle.

During the 2006-07 academic year, the student government associations at the public baccalaureate institutions contributed over \$2 million dollars to support child care programs on their campuses. Wait lists for child care programs ranged from 58 students at Central Washington University to over 700 at the University of Washington at the public, four-year institutions.

**Summary of Substitute Bill:**

The HECB and the SBCTC must award child care grants on a competitive or matching basis. Separate sections of law are created for the HECB and the SBCTC in order to clarify the powers and duties granted to each agency.

The HECB administers the program for the four-year institutions and is required to proportionally distribute funds based on the financial support for child care received by the student government associations. A student government association at two and four-year institutions may solicit funds from private organizations and through targeted fund raising campaigns, as part of its financial support for child care programs.

The SBCTC administers the program for the two year institutions. The SBCTC must establish granting guidelines consistent with the Legislature's desired outcome of creating more cooperative preschool programs and models that can be replicated at other institutions.

The HECB and SBCTC must each submit a report on child care at their respective institutions by December 2008 and every two years thereafter. The report must include an update on the status of program design and implementation; the number of students using the program; the identifiable unmet need; and the amount contributed by each university or college administration and student government association for the purposes of child care.

**EFFECT OF SENATE AMENDMENT(S):**

Requires that any funding provided to support child care at institutions of higher education is used exclusively for students.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** (Higher Education)

(In support) Students would not have been able to complete their degrees without access to affordable, geographically proximate childcare. There is a need to expand programs, simply based on the lengthy wait lists at colleges and universities today. In addition, the unmet need might be greater than stakeholders know, since people may be dissuaded from applying given

the long wait lists. Programs must be aligned to help train more staff and, in turn, expand access. Infant care is an especially important need. Policy makers are cautioned to guard against the possibility of using this program to replace others that are currently operating and have proven effective.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** (Appropriations)

Substitute House Bill 2582 was initiated by Washington higher education students in response to the documented need among students for child care services in colleges and universities. Child care is costly and many recipients of state financial aid have children and need child care. The bill sets up two different programs, one for the four-year institutions and one for the two-year institutions. The program for the four-years would provide funding proportionally to what students contribute through their service and activities fees. This year students in the four-year institutions contributed over \$2 million to support child care services for students, yet wait lists for child care services are long as evidenced by over 1,500 children on the wait lists at the four-year institutions alone. The bill is a step towards building stronger families in the state by leveraging funds that are already set-aside by students.

Students at two-year colleges also contribute funding to child care programming but the bill does not outline a funding formula for the two-year colleges. A strength of the current two-year grants program are the students themselves. Students determine the child care needs at the college level and collectively work together to provide a financial match to receive state funds. Additional funding would provide more service to more students. Both the administrative portion of the bill and funding recommended by the Appropriations Subcommittee on Education are important.

**Persons Testifying:** (Higher Education) Representative Roberts, prime sponsor; Ursula Seeholzer, University of Washington-Tacoma; Laura Arras, and Randy Shapiro, University of Washington; Lisa Newmann, and John Michaelson, Edmond Community College; Erin Brown, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges; Patricia Chantrill, Council of Faculty Representatives; Julie Su-hawn-eck, Evergreen State College; Larry Ganders, Washington State University; Bryce McKibbon, and Matthew Kreiling, Washington Student Lobby.

(Opposed) None.

**Persons Testifying:** (Appropriations) (In support) Representative Roberts, prime sponsor; David Parsons and Evette Jasper, International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW) Local 4121; Erin Brown, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges; and Matt Kreiling, Washington Student Lobby.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** (Higher Education) None.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** (Appropriations) None.