

2SSB 5285 - H COMM AMD  
By Committee on Higher Education

ADOPTED 04/11/2017

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the  
4 agriculture, environment, outdoor recreation, and natural resources  
5 economic sectors can offer rewarding career paths for students who  
6 are interested in the natural world and are excited by the idea of  
7 having a career with outdoor opportunities. Not only are these  
8 careers currently available to students, but the United States  
9 department of agriculture predicts, in their recent report on  
10 employment opportunities for college graduates in food, agriculture,  
11 renewable natural resources, outdoor recreation, and the environment,  
12 that employment opportunities in these fields are expected to  
13 increase.

14 (2) The legislature further finds that thousands of Washington  
15 students do not have access to the types of education that are  
16 necessary to guide them down the pathways leading to marketable job  
17 skills and productive careers in the agriculture, environment,  
18 outdoor recreation, and natural resources economic sectors. Long-term  
19 career success in these fields require the ability to identify,  
20 apply, and integrate concepts from science, technology, engineering,  
21 and mathematics as they specifically relate to the agriculture,  
22 environment, outdoor recreation, and natural resources economic  
23 sectors and the sectors' related careers.

24 (3) The legislature further finds that students will have the  
25 information they need to consider careers in the agriculture,  
26 environment, outdoor recreation, and natural resources economic  
27 sectors if educators are provided with actual applications of how to  
28 put integrated learning into action and facilitating experiences that  
29 allow students to get outdoors and learn in real-world and community-  
30 connected environments.

31 (4) The legislature further finds that the economic opportunities  
32 available for students interested in agriculture, natural resources,

1 outdoor recreation, or the environment can be more readily unlocked  
2 if educators are provided with information on worker demand and  
3 qualifications so that they are equipped to assist students to access  
4 the economic opportunity and help make connections between education  
5 and outdoor careers. The information needed by educators to make  
6 these connections can be accomplished through a statewide workforce  
7 study of potential jobs in these fields.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1)(a) Subject to the availability of  
9 amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the workforce  
10 training and education coordinating board shall conduct a workforce  
11 assessment for the agriculture, natural resources, outdoor  
12 recreation, and environment sectors. The purpose of the study is to  
13 assess the available data on current and projected employment levels  
14 and hiring demand for skilled mid-level workers in the agriculture,  
15 environment, outdoor recreation, and natural resources economic  
16 sectors in the state. Ultimately, this information is being collected  
17 so that educators have better information available as they develop  
18 programs for informing students about potential careers.

19 (b) The study must use a broad definition for the mid-level  
20 skilled occupations included in the study and identify up to five  
21 regions of the state based on the specific workforce characteristics  
22 of agriculture, natural resources, outdoor recreation, and  
23 environment employers.

24 (2) The study required by this section must, at a minimum:

25 (a) Include assessment of:

26 (i) Data from the employment security department on the current  
27 and projected levels of employment and net job vacancies;

28 (ii) Data used by workforce development councils in identifying  
29 demand for workers in their areas;

30 (iii) Data from the United States census bureau; and

31 (iv) Data from the United States census bureau's longitudinal  
32 employer-household dynamics dataset.

33 (b) Identify and interview a sample of major employers from the  
34 agriculture, environment, outdoor recreation, and natural resources  
35 economic sectors in each region to assess employers' perspective and  
36 expectations on employment and hiring of skilled mid-level workers in  
37 their industry and area. The study must also include an assessment of  
38 food and fiber processing jobs in the state.

1 (3) In conducting any study pursuant to this section, the  
2 workforce training and education coordinating board must convene and  
3 consult with a steering committee to define the scope of mid-level  
4 skilled occupations considered, validate designation of specific  
5 regions to be analyzed, and assist in the design of information  
6 collection. The steering committee must include representatives of  
7 statewide business organizations and a delegate of the state board  
8 for community and technical colleges who will be staff.

9 (4) In implementing this section, the workforce training and  
10 education coordinating board may complete the work directly or, at  
11 its discretion, contract the assignment, or portions of the  
12 assignment, to a third party or parties chosen by the workforce  
13 training and education coordinating board. However, the final  
14 delivered product must be reported under the workforce training and  
15 education coordinating board.

16 (5) The report must include recommendations on current sources  
17 that provide the most representative and useful information for  
18 educators and counselors, further steps to improve the specificity,  
19 timeliness, and quality of information available on skilled workforce  
20 needs and issues in the areas of the state, and steps necessary to  
21 extend this work both into entry level and advanced level  
22 occupations, and into identification of specific skills that are key  
23 to enabling workers to be productive in this sector.

24 (6) Consistent with RCW 43.01.036, the study required by this  
25 section must be completed and the results reported to the legislature  
26 by October 15, 2018.

27 (7) This section expires June 30, 2019."

28 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Requires that the study include interviews with a sample  
of major employers in the sectors, rather than a representative  
sample of employers.

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