## HOUSE BILL 1336

## State of Washington 66th Legislature 2019 Regular Session

**By** Representatives Slatter, Harris, Sells, Orwall, Steele, Ormsby, Robinson, Dolan, Pollet, Ryu, Valdez, Thai, Stanford, Jinkins, Leavitt, and Wylie; by request of Office of the Governor

Read first time 01/18/19. Referred to Committee on College & Workforce Development.

AN ACT Relating to expanding career connected learning opportunities; amending RCW 28C.18.060; adding a new section to chapter 28B.50 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28B.20 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28B.30 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28B.35 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28B.40 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.700 RCW; and adding a new chapter to Title 28C RCW.

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

9 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 1. (1) The legislature recognizes that in 10 Washington's fast-growing economy local employers need access to a 11 pool of diverse, skilled talent, but too few people are prepared for 12 the career opportunities available. Across the state, there are 13 persistent opportunity gaps in education and employment. Even in 14 today's thriving economy, the path to economic self-sufficiency and 15 fulfillment is difficult for many people.

16 (2) The legislature intends to scale up high-quality career 17 connected learning opportunities that address persistent educational 18 opportunity gaps and meet the talent needs of employers. Through 19 career connected learning opportunities that are available across 20 communities and regions, individuals can advance their academic

1 learning and build awareness of, exposure to, and preparation for, 2 career opportunities.

3 (3) In order to create a statewide, sustainable career connected4 learning system, three areas must be addressed:

5 (a) Statewide system development through cross-sector6 coordination;

7 (b) Directing resources to K-12 and higher education partners to 8 support enrollment in career launch and registered apprenticeship 9 programs for youth; and

10 (c) Support for regional leadership and coordination to 11 facilitate connections between industry and education, implement 12 career connected learning programs, and help young adults and 13 employers to navigate these opportunities.

14 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 2. (1) A career connected learning cross-15 agency work group is established to scale up and expand high-quality 16 career connected learning opportunities, as "career connected 17 learning" is defined in section 5 of this act, in communities across 18 the state.

19 (2) The purpose of the work group is to coordinate agency 20 functions and external partnerships and carry out the duties and 21 responsibilities set forth in section 3 of this act.

22

(3) The governor shall select the chair of the work group.

(4) The governor's office may consult or contract with entities 23 24 with expertise in industry and education partnerships to provide 25 staffing support and guidance on industry talent needs. The governor's office may convene additional ad hoc committees that 26 27 include industry sector advisory groups and leaders including, but 28 not limited to, high-level representatives from education, business, labor, philanthropy, as well as students, parents, and community 29 30 partners.

31 (5) The work group must consist of, but is not limited to, 32 representatives from the following offices and agencies:

(a) The department of labor and industries in consultation withthe regulatory apprenticeship council under RCW 49.04.010;

35 (b) The department of social and health services, including the 36 division of vocational rehabilitation;

37 (c) The education research and data center at the office of 38 financial management;

39 (d) The employment security department;

- 1 (e) The office of the superintendent of public instruction;
- 2 (f) The state board of education;
- 3 (g) The state board for community and technical colleges;
- 4 (h) The student achievement council;
- 5 (i) The workforce training and education coordinating board;
- 6 (j) One representative of the public baccalaureate institutions;

7 (k) One representative of the independent four-year institutions8 of higher education; and

- (1) The office of the governor.
- 10 (6) The work group shall:
- 11 (a) Meet at least six times during the calendar year; and

12 (b) Report progress to the governor and appropriate committees of 13 the legislature by September 1st annually.

14 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 3. The career connected learning cross-agency 15 work group established in section 2 of this act shall have the 16 following duties and responsibilities:

(1) Advance and promote the career connect Washington vision to create a statewide system for career connected learning and the need for joint action as follows:

(a) Create, and periodically update, clear guidance for endorsing career launch programs to guide quality assurance for the purpose of expanding enrollments by August 1, 2019. Registered apprenticeships as approved by the Washington apprenticeship and training council at the department of labor and industries, or as approved by the federal bureau of apprenticeship and training, are considered endorsed career launch programs;

(b) Prioritize activities including coordinating cross-agency and
 industry sector leadership to advance strategic priorities;

29

9

(c) Implement a marketing and communications agenda;

30 (d) Mobilize private sector and philanthropic leadership and 31 resources to support system building;

32 (e) Build systemic functions in key agencies and existing 33 systems;

34 (f) Create a statewide inventory that identifies existing support 35 programs to promote equitable participation in career connected 36 learning, including resources for populations to reengage with 37 educational opportunities;

38 (g) Develop web sites and other resources, and coordinate current 39 resources managed by the workforce training and education

1 coordinating board, the student achievement council, and the 2 employment security department, to inform students, employers, and 3 the public about career connected learning opportunities;

4 (h) Develop financial and other support services to increase
5 access and success in career connected learning for students facing
6 barriers or living in underserved communities;

7 (i) Address transfer and articulation issues to ensure career 8 launch program participants receive high school and college credit in 9 programs initiated in K-12 or dropout reengagement programs, or 10 college credit in postsecondary programs and registered 11 apprenticeships, and work to expand the portability of credits to the 12 maximum extent possible;

(j) Establish clear targets for equity to guide state data development and action by regional partners related to program design and expansion, including specific equity-focused criteria within grant funding processes and strategies; and

17 (k) Develop data systems and protocols for career connected 18 learning planning and evaluation purposes;

19 (2) By September 1, 2019, and by each September 1st thereafter, 20 make budget recommendations to the office of financial management, to 21 direct resources to education programs for career connected learning 22 as follows:

(a) Support the K-12 system and the office of the superintendent of public instruction to increase student participation in career connected learning programs that include career awareness and exploration, career preparation, and career launch;

(b) Support expansion of innovative program design in registered apprenticeships for youth, year-round and summer programs, and equitable access to dual credit;

30 (c) Support two-year and four-year institutions of higher 31 education to expand career connected learning enrollments, and 32 specifically:

(i) Build capacity at community and technical colleges to support innovative design in career launch and registered apprenticeship programs for youth, as well as program participation by high school graduates or out-of-school youth;

37 (ii) Align the use of work-study to support career launch and 38 registered apprenticeship programs for youth; and (iii) Clarify financial aid eligibility and exclusions from
 financial aid caps for career launch and registered apprenticeship
 programs for youth;

4 (d) Promote innovation in equivalency and credentialing within 5 endorsed career launch and registered apprenticeship programs for 6 youth including, but not limited to, offering guidance and technical 7 assistance to school districts and local education agencies to ensure 8 students take advantage of flexibility in the twenty-four-credit 9 diploma and earn high school credit for career launch and registered 10 apprenticeship programs for youth;

(e) Expand the number of portable credits and credit for prior learning to ensure that career launch programs transfer for high school or college credit to the maximum extent possible; and

14 (f) Support the registered apprenticeship system and the 15 department of labor and industries to build capacity to expand 16 registered apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs;

17 (3) Support regional leadership, program intermediaries, and 18 career connected learning navigation and coordination to expand 19 participation in career connected learning opportunities and the 20 implementation of the career connected learning grant program 21 established in section 4 of this act;

(4) Support the formation and operation of regional networks in both rural and urban areas to guide career connected learning opportunities that are both tailored to the local needs of students and employers, and designed for portable credentials across education settings and across an industry;

(5) Develop a data enclave for career connected learning to measure progress and ensure equity of opportunity for career connected learning, led by the education research and data center at the office of financial management, as follows:

31 (a) Develop program codes for career connected learning 32 opportunities in K-12 and postsecondary education in order to track 33 those programs that are designated as career connected learning 34 programs for each of the three categories set forth in the definition 35 of "career connected learning" in section 5 of this act; and

36 (b) Collect and disaggregate program participation and outcomes 37 data by race, gender, income, rurality, ability, foster youth, 38 homeless youth, English language learner, and other relevant 39 categories.

1 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 4. (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the career connected learning 2 grant program is established as a competitive grant program to 3 advance the strategic plan in section 3 of this act. The program 4 shall be administered by the employment security department. The 5 6 governor's office shall work with the employment security department to establish grant criteria and guide the process for selection with 7 consultation from the career connected learning cross-agency work 8 9 group.

(2) The purpose of the career connected learning grant program is 10 11 to create career connected learning opportunities, including career 12 awareness and exploration, career preparation, and career launch programs, that are both tailored to the local needs of students and 13 employers and designed so that students may receive high school or 14 college credit across industries and regions of the state to the 15 16 maximum extent possible. The program funds shall be used for two 17 overarching purposes:

(a) Support regional career connected learning networks in bothrural and urban areas under subsection (3) of this section; and

20 (b) Support career connected learning program intermediaries 21 working within and across regions who partner with multiple 22 employers, labor partners, and educational institutions, work with 23 K-12 and postsecondary career representatives to develop curricula 24 for new and innovative programs, and scale existing career awareness 25 and exploration, career preparation, and endorsed career launch 26 programs.

(3) The program administrator shall consult with the governor's
 office to develop a formal request for proposal for both the regional
 career connected learning networks and the program intermediaries.

(4) (a) Proposals for regional career connected learning networks 30 31 and intermediaries may be sought from applicants within the geographic areas of the nine educational service districts. 32 33 Successful applicants shall convene and manage regional, crossindustry networks that will lead to the expansion of career connected 34 35 learning opportunities.

36 (b) Regional career connected learning network applicants must 37 demonstrate regional knowledge and status as a trusted partner of 38 business and education stakeholders, a track record of success with 39 career connected learning and aligned initiatives, and a commitment 40 to equity. Regional networks may include, but are not limited to,

HB 1336

1 regional education networks, school districts, educational service 2 districts, higher education institutions, workforce development 3 councils, chambers of commerce, industry associations, joint labor 4 management councils, multiemployer training partnerships, economic 5 development councils, and nonprofit organizations.

6 (5)(a) Funds provided to program intermediaries are for the 7 purpose of creating career connected learning programs through a 8 competitive grant process.

9 (b) Program intermediaries shall work with regional networks, 10 career connected learning coordinators, and industry and education 11 partners to build curricula for career connected learning programs. 12 All curricula must be open-sourced and available to transfer anywhere 13 in the state to the maximum extent possible.

(c) Eligible program intermediary applicants may include, but are not limited to, new or existing industry associations, joint labor management councils, regional networks, postsecondary education and training institutions working with multiple employer partners, and other community organizations.

19 (6) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this 20 specific purpose, the employment security department, as the 21 administrator of the program, has the authority to utilize funds 22 deposited in the career connected learning account for the purposes 23 of the program.

24 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 5.** The definitions in this section apply 25 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires 26 otherwise.

(1) "Career awareness and exploration" means programs, activities, and events that provide early exposure to jobs and industries. "Career awareness and exploration" are structured programs that include job fairs, guest speakers, job shadows, job site tours, and other similar activities.

32 (2) "Career connected learning" means a learning experience that 33 is integrated with work-related content and skills in the following 34 three categories: (a) Career awareness and exploration; (b) career 35 preparation; and (c) career launch.

36 (3)(a) "Career launch programs" means registered apprenticeships, 37 registered apprenticeships for youth, and programs that combine the 38 following three elements:

39 (i) Supervised paid work experience;

(ii) Aligned classroom learning to academic and employer
 standards; and

3 (iii) Culmination in a valuable credential beyond a high school 4 diploma or forty-five college credits towards a two-year or four-year 5 postsecondary credential.

6 (b) "Career launch programs" include the elements in (a) of this 7 subsection and may be achieved through, but are not limited to one or 8 more of the following:

9 (i) A state approved career and technical education sequence of 10 courses or program of study that include requirements in alignment 11 with RCW 28A.700.030;

12 (ii) A qualifying degree or credential earned through a community 13 or technical college or university.

14 (c) "Career launch programs" may be initiated in a secondary 15 education system and completed in a postsecondary education system, 16 or first year of paid employment if a cohesive and jointly planned 17 program is provided.

18 (d) "Career launch programs" must be endorsed through the process19 under section 3(1)(a) of this act.

(4) "Career preparation programs" means programs that give students hands-on skills and knowledge experience within a particular business, career track, or industry, and help prepare students to work in a professional setting. "Career preparation programs" include career and technical education courses, on-site internships, preapprenticeship programs, and other similar opportunities.

26 (5) "Work group" means the career connected learning cross-agency 27 work group established in section 2 of this act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. The career connected learning account is created in the state treasury. All receipts from public or private sources provided for the purpose of funding grants under section 4 of this act must be deposited into the account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only for career connected learning grants.

34 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 7. A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 35 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
 specific purpose, the college board shall employ or contract with
 career connected learning coordinators. Career connected learning

1 coordinators shall coordinate with the regional career connected 2 learning networks and program intermediaries under section 4 of this 3 act to expand career connected learning preparation and career launch 4 programs offered at community and technical colleges, and to 5 facilitate transfer of career launch program credits.

6

(2) Career connected learning coordinators shall:

7 (a) Engage faculty and other relevant institution leadership and 8 staff for the purpose of working with regional networks and program 9 intermediaries to create new career preparation and career launch 10 program curricula and opportunities, scaling current programs, and 11 facilitating the endorsement of career launch programs; and

12 (b) Work with appropriate faculty and staff at community and 13 technical colleges, K-12 education representatives, and public 14 baccalaureate institutions to expand the number of career launch 15 program credits that may be articulated and transferred to 16 postsecondary associate, baccalaureate, and applied baccalaureate 17 degree programs.

18 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 8. A new section is added to chapter 28B.20
19 RCW to read as follows:

20 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the University of Washington shall employ or 21 22 contract with at least one career connected learning coordinator. Career connected learning coordinators shall coordinate with the 23 24 regional career connected learning networks and program intermediaries under section 4 of this act to develop and expand 25 career connected learning preparation and career launch programs 26 27 offered at the University of Washington, and to facilitate transfer 28 of career launch program credits.

29

(2) Career connected learning coordinators shall:

30 (a) Engage faculty and other relevant institution leadership and 31 staff for the purpose of working with regional networks and program 32 intermediaries to create new career preparation and career launch 33 program curricula and opportunities, scaling current programs, and 34 facilitating the endorsement of career launch programs; and

35 (b) Work with appropriate faculty and staff at the University of 36 Washington, K-12 education representatives, and community and 37 technical colleges to expand the number of career launch program 38 credits that may be articulated and transferred to postsecondary 39 associate, baccalaureate, and applied baccalaureate degree programs.

<u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 9. A new section is added to chapter 28B.30
 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this 3 specific purpose, Washington State University shall employ or 4 contract with at least one career connected learning coordinator. 5 6 Career connected learning coordinators shall coordinate with the 7 regional career connected learning networks and program intermediaries under section 4 of this act to develop and expand 8 career connected learning preparation and career launch programs 9 offered at Washington State University, and to facilitate transfer of 10 11 career launch program credits.

12

(2) Career connected learning coordinators shall:

(a) Engage faculty and other relevant institution leadership and
staff for the purpose of working with regional networks and program
intermediaries to create new career preparation and career launch
program curricula and opportunities, scaling current programs, and
facilitating the endorsement of career launch programs; and

(b) Work with appropriate faculty and staff at Washington State University, K-12 education representatives, and community and technical colleges to expand the number of career launch program credits that may be articulated and transferred to postsecondary associate, baccalaureate, and applied baccalaureate degree programs.

23 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 10. A new section is added to chapter 28B.35 24 RCW to read as follows:

25 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the regional universities shall employ or contract 26 27 with at least one career connected learning coordinator. Career connected learning coordinators shall coordinate with the regional 28 career connected learning networks and program intermediaries under 29 30 section 4 of this act to develop and expand career connected learning 31 preparation and career launch programs offered at the regional universities, and to facilitate transfer of career launch program 32 33 credits.

34

(2) Career connected learning coordinators:

35 (a) Engage faculty and other relevant institution leadership and 36 staff for the purpose of working with regional networks and program 37 intermediaries to create new career preparation and career launch 38 program curricula and opportunities, scaling current programs, and 39 facilitating the endorsement of career launch programs; and

1 (b) Work with appropriate faculty and staff at the regional 2 universities, K-12 education representatives, and community and 3 technical colleges to expand the number of career launch program 4 credits that may be articulated and transferred to postsecondary 5 associate, baccalaureate, and applied baccalaureate degree programs.

6 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 11. A new section is added to chapter 28B.40 7 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this 8 specific purpose, The Evergreen State College shall employ or 9 10 contract with at least one career connected learning coordinator. Career connected learning coordinators shall coordinate with the 11 career connected learning networks 12 regional and program intermediaries under section 4 of this act to develop and expand 13 career connected learning preparation and career launch programs 14 15 offered at The Evergreen State College, and to facilitate transfer of 16 career launch program credits.

17

(2) Career connected learning coordinators shall:

(a) Engage faculty and other relevant institution leadership and
 staff for the purpose of working with regional networks and program
 intermediaries to create new career preparation and career launch
 program curricula and opportunities, scaling current programs, and
 facilitating the endorsement of career launch programs; and

(b) Work with appropriate faculty and staff at the Evergreen State College, K-12 education representatives, and community and technical colleges to expand the number of career launch program credits that may be articulated and transferred to postsecondary associate, baccalaureate, and applied baccalaureate degree programs.

28 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 12. A new section is added to chapter 28A.700
29 RCW to read as follows:

30 (1) Beginning in the 2019-20 school year, to allow students to 31 engage in learning outside of the school day or in a summer program, 32 school districts shall be funded up to one and two-tenths full-time 33 equivalents for career launch programs, as defined in section 5 of 34 this act.

35 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall 36 develop procedures to ensure that school districts do not report any 37 student for more than one and two-tenths full-time equivalent students, combining both the student's high school enrollment and career launch enrollment.

3 Sec. 13. RCW 28C.18.060 and 2017 c 39 s 4 are each amended to 4 read as follows:

5 The board, in cooperation with the operating agencies of the 6 state training system and private career schools and colleges, shall:

7 (1) Concentrate its major efforts on planning, coordination 8 evaluation, policy analysis, and recommending improvements to the 9 state's training system;

10 (2) Advocate for the state training system and for meeting the 11 needs of employers and the workforce for workforce education and 12 training;

(3) Establish and maintain an inventory of the programs of the 13 state training system, and related state programs, and perform a 14 biennial assessment of the vocational education, training, and adult 15 16 basic education and literacy needs of the state; identify ongoing and strategic education needs; and assess the extent to which employment, 17 18 training, vocational and basic education, rehabilitation services, and public assistance services represent a consistent, integrated 19 20 approach to meet such needs;

(4) Develop and maintain a state comprehensive plan for workforce 21 22 training and education, including but not limited to, goals, objectives, and priorities for the state training system, and review 23 24 the state training system for consistency with the state comprehensive plan. In developing the state comprehensive plan for 25 workforce training and education, the board shall use, but shall not 26 27 be limited to: Economic, labor market, and populations trends reports in office of financial management forecasts; joint office of 28 financial management and employment security department labor force, 29 30 industry employment, and occupational forecasts; the results of 31 scientifically based outcome, net-impact and cost-benefit evaluations; the needs of employers as evidenced in formal employer 32 surveys and other employer input; and the needs of program 33 participants and workers as evidenced in formal surveys and other 34 input from program participants and the labor community; 35

36 (5) In consultation with the student achievement council, review 37 and make recommendations to the office of financial management and 38 the legislature on operating and capital facilities budget requests 39 for operating agencies of the state training system for purposes of

p. 12

HB 1336

1 consistency with the state comprehensive plan for workforce training 2 and education;

3 (6) Provide for coordination among the different operating 4 agencies and components of the state training system at the state 5 level and at the regional level;

6 (7) Develop a consistent and reliable database on vocational 7 education enrollments, costs, program activities, and job placements 8 from publicly funded vocational education programs in this state;

9 (8)(a) Establish standards for data collection and maintenance 10 for the operating agencies of the state training system in a format 11 that is accessible to use by the board. The board shall require a 12 minimum of common core data to be collected by each operating agency 13 of the state training system;

14 (b) Develop requirements for minimum common core data in 15 consultation with the office of financial management and the 16 operating agencies of the training system;

(9) Establish minimum standards for program evaluation for the operating agencies of the state training system, including, but not limited to, the use of common survey instruments and procedures for measuring perceptions of program participants and employers of program participants, and monitor such program evaluation;

(10) Every two years administer scientifically based outcome evaluations of the state training system, including, but not limited to, surveys of program participants, surveys of employers of program participants, and matches with employment security department payroll and wage files. Every five years administer scientifically based netimpact and cost-benefit evaluations of the state training system;

28 (11) In cooperation with the employment security department, provide for the improvement and maintenance of quality and utility in 29 occupational information and forecasts for use in training system 30 31 planning and evaluation. Improvements shall include, but not be limited to, development of state-based occupational change factors 32 involving input by employers and employees, and delineation of skill 33 and training requirements by education level associated with current 34 and forecasted occupations; 35

36 (12) Provide for the development of common course description 37 formats, common reporting requirements, and common definitions for 38 operating agencies of the training system;

39 (13) Provide for effectiveness and efficiency reviews of the 40 state training system; 1 (14) In cooperation with the student achievement council, 2 facilitate transfer of credit policies and agreements between 3 institutions of the state training system, and encourage articulation 4 agreements for programs encompassing two years of secondary workforce 5 education and two years of postsecondary workforce education;

6 (15) In cooperation with the student achievement council, 7 facilitate transfer of credit policies and agreements between private 8 training institutions and institutions of the state training system;

9 (16) Develop policy objectives for the workforce innovation and 10 opportunity act, P.L. 113-128, or its successor; develop coordination 11 criteria for activities under the act with related programs and 12 services provided by state and local education and training agencies; 13 and ensure that entrepreneurial training opportunities are available 14 through programs of each local workforce development board in the 15 state;

16 (17) Ensure that the expansion of K-12 and postsecondary 17 opportunities for career connected learning, as defined in section 5 18 of this act, is incorporated into the state plan adopted for the 19 purposes of the Carl D. Perkins career and technical education 20 improvement act, P.L. 109-270;

21 (18) Make recommendations to the commission of student assessment, the state board of education, and the superintendent of 22 public instruction, concerning basic skill competencies and essential 23 core competencies for K-12 education. Basic skills for this purpose 24 25 shall be reading, writing, computation, speaking, and critical thinking, essential core competencies for this purpose shall be 26 English, math, science/technology, history, geography, and critical 27 28 thinking. The board shall monitor the development of and provide advice concerning secondary curriculum which integrates vocational 29 30 and academic education;

31 (((18))) (19) Establish and administer programs for marketing and 32 outreach to businesses and potential program participants;

33 (((19))) (20) Facilitate the location of support services, 34 including but not limited to, child care, financial aid, career 35 counseling, and job placement services, for students and trainees at 36 institutions in the state training system, and advocate for support 37 services for trainees and students in the state training system;

38 ((<del>(20)</del>)) <u>(21)</u> Facilitate private sector assistance for the state 39 training system, including but not limited to: Financial assistance, 40 rotation of private and public personnel, and vocational counseling;

p. 14

HB 1336

1 ((<del>(21)</del>)) <u>(22)</u> Facilitate the development of programs for school-2 to-work transition that combine classroom education and on-the-job 3 training, including entrepreneurial education and training, in 4 industries and occupations without a significant number of 5 apprenticeship programs;

6 ((<del>(22)</del>)) <u>(23)</u> Include in the planning requirements for local 7 workforce development boards a requirement that the local workforce 8 development boards specify how entrepreneurial training is to be 9 offered through the one-stop system required under the workforce 10 innovation and opportunity act, P.L. 113-128, or its successor;

11 ((<del>(23)</del>)) <u>(24)</u> Encourage and assess progress for the equitable 12 representation of racial and ethnic minorities, women, and people with disabilities among the students, teachers, and administrators of 13 the state training system. Equitable, for this purpose, shall mean 14 substantially proportional to their percentage of the 15 state 16 population in the geographic area served. This function of the board 17 shall in no way lessen more stringent state or federal requirements 18 for representation of racial and ethnic minorities, women, and people 19 with disabilities;

20 ((<del>(24)</del>)) <u>(25)</u> Participate in the planning and policy development 21 of governor set-aside grants under P.L. 97-300, as amended;

((<del>(25)</del>)) <u>(26)</u> Administer veterans' programs, licensure of private vocational schools, the job skills program, and the Washington award for vocational excellence;

25 ((<del>(26)</del>)) <u>(27)</u> Allocate funding from the state job training trust 26 fund;

27 ((<del>(27)</del>)) <u>(28)</u> Work with the director of commerce to ensure 28 coordination among workforce training priorities and economic 29 development and entrepreneurial development efforts, including but 30 not limited to assistance to industry clusters;

31 ((<del>(28)</del>)) <u>(29)</u> Conduct research into workforce development 32 programs designed to reduce the high unemployment rate among young people between approximately eighteen and twenty-four years of age. 33 In consultation with the operating agencies, the board shall advise 34 the governor and legislature on policies and programs to alleviate 35 36 the high unemployment rate among young people. The research shall include disaggregated demographic information and, to the extent 37 possible, income data for adult youth. The research shall also 38 39 include a comparison of the effectiveness of programs examined as a 40 part of the research conducted in this subsection in relation to the

public investment made in these programs in reducing unemployment of young adults. The board shall report to the appropriate committees of the legislature by November 15, 2008, and every two years thereafter. Where possible, the data reported to the legislative committees should be reported in numbers and in percentages;

6 ((<del>(29)</del>)) <u>(30)</u> Adopt rules as necessary to implement this chapter.

7 The board may delegate to the director any of the functions of 8 this section.

9 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 14. Sections 1 through 6 of this act 10 constitute a new chapter in Title 28C RCW.

--- END ---