
HOUSE BILL 2630

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Kenney, Cox, Kessler, Priest, Conway, Hunter, Buri, Fromhold, Sells, Grant, Ormsby, Quall, Haigh, Clements, Roberts, Upthegrove, McDermott, Hasegawa, Santos and Flannigan

Read first time . Referred to .

1 AN ACT Relating to postsecondary education, including creating the
2 opportunity grant program; adding new sections to chapter 28B.50 RCW;
3 creating new sections; making appropriations; providing an expiration
4 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

7 (1) Increasing Washington's economic competitiveness requires
8 increasing the supply of skilled workers in the state; and

9 (2) Improving the labor market competitiveness of all Washington
10 residents requires that all residents have access to postsecondary
11 education.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW
13 to read as follows:

14 (1) The college board shall, with the assistance of the work force
15 training and education coordinating board and a nonprofit organization
16 that has been established to address work force development issues by
17 a recognized statewide organization of employers representing a
18 majority of employers in the state:

1 (a) Identify high demand occupations, which are occupations where
2 employer demand for workers exceeds the supply of qualified job
3 applicants;

4 (b) Convene or use existing industry groups, such as industry skill
5 panels or other industry or occupational entities, to identify the
6 skill sets that workers need in the high demand occupations;

7 (c) Develop credentials that are recognized by postsecondary
8 institutions and employers statewide and that are based on the
9 attainment of the skill sets needed in occupations in high demand
10 sectors;

11 (d) Market the credentials or certificates to potential students
12 and employers as a way for them to advance in their careers; and

13 (e) Gain recognition of the credentials or certificates by
14 employers.

15 (2) In carrying out the functions of this section, the college
16 board shall give priority to high demand occupations in industry
17 sectors important to the economic growth of the state.

18 (3) The college board may, in implementing this section, accept,
19 use, and dispose of contributions of money, services, and property.
20 All moneys received by the college board for the purposes of this
21 section must be deposited in a depository approved by the state
22 treasurer. Disbursements of such funds shall be on authorization of
23 the college board or a duly authorized representative thereof. In
24 order to maintain an effective expenditure and revenue control, such
25 funds are subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no
26 appropriation is required to permit expenditure of such funds.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW
28 to read as follows:

29 (1) The college board shall develop and implement a work force
30 education program known as the opportunity grant program to provide
31 funding for low-income students enrolled in the program, including but
32 not limited to funding tuition, books, fees, and child care expenses.
33 The college board must:

34 (a) Begin developing the program no later than March 15, 2006, with
35 student enrollment to begin no later than January 1, 2007; and

36 (b) Submit a progress report to the fiscal and higher education
37 committees of the legislature by January 15, 2008.

1 (2) The college board may, in implementing the opportunity grant
2 program, accept, use, and dispose of contributions of money, services,
3 and property. All moneys received by the college board for the program
4 must be deposited in a depository approved by the state treasurer.
5 Disbursements of such funds shall be on authorization of the college
6 board or a duly authorized representative thereof. In order to
7 maintain an effective expenditure and revenue control, such funds are
8 subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is
9 required to permit expenditure of such funds.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The Washington state institute for
11 public policy shall conduct a study to include:

12 (a) A review of and recommendations for consolidating and
13 simplifying the delivery of state-funded and federally funded work
14 force education programs and work force education aid offered to
15 students in this state, with a goal of achieving easier access to the
16 programs for students;

17 (b) A description of barriers that exist to combining work force
18 education programs and work force education aid, such as state or
19 federal statutes, rules, or regulations, and the relief that may be
20 available through federal waivers;

21 (c) An estimate of the funding gap between available work force
22 education aid and the financial needs of students living in this state;

23 (d) A description of barriers to access to and completion of work
24 force education programs in this state; and

25 (e) Recommendations for increasing participation and completion
26 rates for work force education programs.

27 (2) The Washington state institute for public policy shall review
28 the costs and benefits of creating a universal K-14 system.

29 (3) The Washington state institute for public policy must submit
30 its report on the study to the fiscal and higher education committees
31 of the legislature by November 15, 2006.

32 (4) The Washington state institute for public policy may, in
33 carrying out this study, accept, use, and dispose of contributions of
34 money, services, and property. All moneys received by the institute
35 for the study must be deposited in a depository approved by the state
36 treasurer. Disbursements of such funds shall be on authorization of
37 the institute or a duly authorized representative thereof. In order to

1 maintain an effective expenditure and revenue control, such funds are
2 subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is
3 required to permit expenditure of such funds.

4 (5) For purposes of this section:

5 (a) "Financial needs" includes but is not limited to tuition,
6 books, fees, tools, living expenses, and child care expenses.

7 (b) "Work force education aid" means financial aid, funded from
8 state or federal sources, provided to students enrolled in work force
9 education programs.

10 (c) "Work force education programs" means education and skills
11 training, including vocational education, adult basic education linked
12 to vocational education, work force education under RCW 28C.18.010,
13 work force training provided under chapter 74.08A RCW, and any other
14 related work force training program.

15 (6) This section expires December 31, 2006.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The sum of seventy-five thousand
17 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
18 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, from the general fund to the
19 state board for community and technical colleges for the purposes of
20 section 2 of this act. Expenditure of moneys appropriated in this
21 subsection is contingent on receipt of matching funds from a nonstate
22 source.

23 (2) The sum of five million dollars, or as much thereof as may be
24 necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007,
25 from the general fund to the state board for community and technical
26 colleges for the purposes of section 3 of this act.

27 (3) The sum of seventy-five thousand dollars, or as much thereof as
28 may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30,
29 2007, from the general fund to the Washington institute for public
30 policy for the purposes of section 4 of this act.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act is necessary for the immediate
32 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
33 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
34 immediately.

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