

**WASHINGTON STATE  
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD  
MEETING NO.160  
JANUARY 27, 2012**

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

**Background**

The 2012 Legislative Session commenced on January 9, and is scheduled to adjourn on March 9, 2012. The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board reviewed operating agency budget proposals and passed a motion on those proposals at the November Board meeting. The Board also reviewed proposals by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Governor related to training for aerospace and advanced manufacturing and passed a motion in support of the Governor's proposal.

During a Special Session in December of 2011, the Legislature passed a supplemental budget for the current biennium, as well as a number of the Governor's aerospace training proposals (subject to funding).

Included in this tab is a digest of all workforce-related bills that have been introduced in the Special Session and the current Regular Session as of the date of the board mailing. On the day of the Board meeting, staff will provide board members with a review of key workforce-related themes emerging in the session and bills related to those themes, as well as an up-to-date digest of significant workforce-related bills and their current status. Throughout the session, staff will provide weekly bulletins on legislative happenings and a weekly hearings schedule through our newsletter and website.

**Board Action Required:** None. For discussion only

**MAJOR WORKFORCE-RELATED BILLS**  
**2012 Legislative Session**  
**As of Jan. 23, 2012**

**Youth-Related**

**HB 2170sb 6119 – Career Pathways Act – Prime Sponsors – Rep. Probst/Sen. McAuliffe**  
**Career Exploration/Multiple Pathways**

Requires all materials and communications produced by various education and workforce agencies to include information about and emphasize the value of multiple career pathways.

Directs the Workforce Board to identify online tools and programs for students and parents to use in exploring multiple career pathways, as well as an annual summary list of promising careers and pathways. Requires other education and workforce agencies to publicize these tools.

Requires the Workforce Board to work with business organizations to develop a volunteer online mentor program, supported financially or in-kind by businesses, for responding to inquiries from users of the online tools.

Establishes the Career Exploration Partnership Zone program to increase connections and access to internship, training, and employment opportunities. Directs the Workforce Board to develop criteria and a selection process, as well as an activity and performance monitoring report.

**Opportunity Programs/Program Coordination**

Amends the Opportunity Pathways Account to authorize funding from the account to support Opportunity Scholarships, programs supported by the Opportunity Express Account, and the Opportunity Internship Program. Amends the Opportunity Scholarship Program to make Opportunity Internship graduates automatically eligible, and remove the requirement that an eligible student intend to transfer to a four-year institution to earn a BA degree.

Amends the Opportunity Internship Program by including GED recipients under the definition of a graduate and changing the definition of a low-income student. Requires the HECB to provide graduates with a certificate notifying them of their eligibility to receive a State Need Grant.

**Life-Long Learning**

Directs the Workforce Board to develop a proposal to establish an employee benefit account for continuing education and training that employers may offer as one of the elements of a comprehensive benefits package and that may be funded by employer, employee, and state contributions. Requires a report by December 1, 2012.

**Secondary/Postsecondary Guidance and Career Pathways**

Directs the various education agencies to work together to develop model programs of study within career pathways, maximize opportunities for dual credits and articulation, and partner with business and labor to improve opportunities for work-based learning.

Adds student portfolios and student-driven scheduling of courses to the components of a comprehensive guidance and planning program, which is encouraged for all middle, junior high, and high school students.

Encourages school districts to have each middle school, junior high, and high school student develop a High School and Beyond Plan with specified components, such as identifying interests and goals; a four-year plan for course-taking including selecting a program of study

beginning in 9th grade; research, site visits, and an application for postsecondary education; and preparation of a resume.

Encourages high schools to offer multiple high school programs of study within career pathways. Defines high school work-based learning as including a wide range of possible activities.

Requires the State Board of Education to ensure that graduation requirements provide students whose plan does not include immediate baccalaureate entrance to complete a program of study and other graduation requirements, without additional administrative procedures or waivers.

Requires the Professional Educator Standards Board to include in standards for teaching certification the requisite skills and knowledge to offer contextualized learning activities.

Encourages institutions of higher education to offer comprehensive career counseling for all students and to develop partnerships with WorkSource agencies to offer counseling services. Requires all CTCs to offer I-BEST programs to integrate basic education and skills training.

### **HB 2333 – Reduced Education Requirements – Prime Sponsor – Rep. Lytton**

Prohibits the State Board of Education (SBE) from adopting a requirement for completion of a culminating project. Authorizes SBE to adopt a requirement for completion of a high school and beyond plan, but it must allow students to substitute enrollment in the following courses or programs for completion of the plan: the Running Start program, the Advancement Via Individual Determination program, the International Baccalaureate program, AP courses, or preparatory career and technical education courses.

Removes "writing" from certain education requirements to reduce state requirements on local school districts.

Requires the state auditor to conduct audits no more often than once every three years of school districts that have no findings of impropriety for the three-year period immediately preceding the audit period, including financial audits and accountability audits.

### **HB 2411 – High School Graduation Requirements – Prime Sponsor – Rep. Haigh**

Requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to establish the following 18 course/credit requirements for graduation, beginning with the graduating class of 2016: four English credits; three mathematics credits, where the content of the third credit is chosen by the student based on the student's interests and high school and beyond plan; three social studies credits; two science credits; two credits in world languages; one credit in the arts; one credit in health and fitness; and two credits in a career concentration, which are courses chosen by the student based on the student's interests and high school and beyond plan, that may include career and technical education, and are intended to provide a focus for the student's learning.

Authorizes the SBE to establish completion of a high school and beyond plan as a graduation requirement.

### **HB 2470 – At-Risk Students – Prime Sponsor – Rep. Maxwell**

Requires the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, within available funds for school and district improvement, to provide technical assistance to schools and districts specifically targeted to reduce school dropouts and improve on-time and extended high school graduation rates.

For the purposes of opportunity internships, the teaching of mathematics, science, bilingual education, special education, or English as a second language is considered a high-demand occupation.

Partnerships of high schools, teacher preparation programs, and community-based organizations offering the program under the Recruiting Teachers program may be considered opportunity internship consortia.

**HB 2538/SB 6323 –Culminating Project Exemptions – Prime Sponsors – Rep. Santos/SEN. Hobbs; By Request of the Governor**

Declares a student is not required to complete the state board's high school graduation requirement for a culminating project if the student has completed at least one of the following: (1) a running start program and is leaving high school with an associate degree; (2) A high school Navigation 101, advancement via individual determination, or similar program focused on career planning and skill development in preparation for a targeted career; (3) A career and technical education program resulting in a skill certificate; (4) A year of college-level coursework; (5) An international baccalaureate certificate program; or (6) At least four courses in any of the following programs or at least four courses among the following programs: AP, engineering or biological sciences, international baccalaureate, or Cambridge with college credit equivalency exams.

Prohibits the state auditor from conducting fiscal and performance audits more often than once every three years for school districts when no findings of impropriety were found for the school districts for the three-year period immediately preceding the audit period.

**Adult-Related**

**HB 2258 – Higher Education Web Advising – Prime Sponsor – Rep. Zeiger**

Directs the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) or its successor agency, in conjunction with the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC), the Workforce Board, and the four-year institutions of higher education to establish and maintain a statewide online transfer and student advising system that integrates information related to programs, advising, registration, admissions, and transfer.

The online transfer and student advising system must: (a) Integrate with web sites maintained by the HECB or its successor agency, the SBCTC, the Workforce Board, institutions of higher education, and other web sites to provide an inventory of postsecondary degrees and certificates available in the state, including online options; and outline educational requirements for various occupations, including labor market information; (b) Specify educational requirements, admissions requirements, and prerequisites for all postsecondary programs; (c) Identify course options that meet the requirements of a selected path toward a degree or certificate; (d) Provide registration and admissions information for institutions of higher education; (e) Provide a method for students to assess which courses and programs are transferrable from one institution of higher education to another; and which programs will transfer with credit towards completion of their chosen degree or certificate; and (f) Provide information regarding student financial aid and other services that assist students to research, access, and complete degrees and certificates.

**HB 2292 - Aerospace Training – Renton CC - Prime Sponsor – Rep. Maxwell**

Adds Renton Technical College to the list of providers that may offer courses in the Aerospace Training Program.

**HB 2436 – Student Advising – Prime Sponsor – Rep. Haler**

Requires public institutions of higher education to provide academic advising to students at least once per quarter and when a student has completed 75 percent of the requirements needed to obtain his or her degree or certificate.

**HB 2483/SB 6232 – Office of Student Achievement Council – Prime Sponsors – Rep. Seaquist/Sen. Kilmer; By Request of the Governor**

Creates the Office of the Student Achievement Council (Office) and the Student Achievement Council (SAC). The executive director will be appointed by the Governor. The purpose and mission of the Office is to set goals for increasing the educational attainment in Washington and to monitor progress toward meeting those goals. The Office must connect the work of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), the State Board of Education, SBCTC, the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (WTECB), and the four-year institutions of higher education, as well as the independent schools and colleges.

The SAC is composed of nine voting members and two nonvoting members. The voting members include: five citizen members, appointed by the governor with the consent of the Senate; one representative from the four-year institutions, selected by the institutions' presidents; one representative from SBCTC, selected by SBCTC; SPI; and one representative from WTECB, selected by WTECB. The nonvoting members include: one representative selected by an association of independent schools; and one representative selected from among independent degree-granting institutions.

Requires the Office, in consultation with the four-year institutions and SBCTC, to recommend changes in statute and rule to create a focused, streamlined, and an efficient organization to (1) continue duties transferred that promote educational attainment or (2) eliminate duties held by the former HECB that are no longer applicable or detract from the focus on educational attainment.

The Office has the following duties: set short- and long-term educational attainment goals, collaborate with all sectors to each develop integrated measurable goals, and identify resources to meet goals; conduct strategic planning to increase educational attainment; facilitate the development and expansion of innovative practices to increase educational attainment; review data and analysis produced by the Educational Data Center, which includes identifying barriers and recommendations to overcome such barriers, evaluating effectiveness of educational models, identifying best practices, analyzing data from multiple sources, tracking progress toward goals, and communicating results; improve student transitions, which includes setting minimum college admission standards for four-year institutions; developing programs to help student prepare for postsecondary college and career programs; recommend coordinating policies; identify transition issues and solutions; administer student financial aid programs, including the State Need Grant, College Bound, the GET program, and Work Study; administer state and federal grants and programs; protect consumers, which includes approving private degree-granting postsecondary institutions and veterans' benefits programs; and implement statutory residency requirements.

All of the HECB's powers, duties, and functions are transferred to the new Office effective June 1, 2012.

**HB 2580/SB 6141 – Life-Long Learning – Prime Sponsors – Rep. Kenney/Sen. Kilmer**

Establishes a lifelong learning program within the Workforce Board to provide the opportunity for employees, with the support of their employers, to create educational savings accounts that may be used to fund approved education and training.

Authorizes the Board to partner with financial institutions and other public, private, and

nonprofit organizations and to develop program policies and system options that will lead the program to become self-sustaining.

Requires the Board to: 1) establish the policies, rules, and procedures, including but not limited to, standards for fund management and for approving career development plans and education and training; 2) ensure the program is marketed to various geographic areas and industry sectors of the state, as well as to low-wage workers, their employers, and the communities in which they reside; and 3) help partners coordinate new career counseling services with existing online and other providers, including the state's WorkSource system.

**SB 6115 – Health Care Workforce – Prime Sponsor – Sen. Keiser**

Requires the workforce training and education coordinating board to convene a health care personnel shortage task force. The task force must: 1) establish and maintain a state strategic plan ensuring an adequate supply of health care personnel; 2) make recommendations on development of a single portal for entry into the health care professions; 3) identify ways to increase educational capacity and efficiency in health care training programs; 4) identify ways to monitor, manage, and retain critical professions where they are most needed; 5) issue recommendations on scope of practice issues as they relate to ensuring an adequate supply of qualified health care personnel; 6) develop a data collection and analysis system to assist health workforce supply and demand; 7) enable local communities to implement strategies to alleviate the health care personnel shortage in their areas; and 8) develop a health care workforce grant assistance program.

**SB 6121 Financial Aid Counseling Curriculum – Prime Sponsor – Sen. Frockt**

Requires the office of student financial assistance to provide a financial aid counseling curriculum to institutions of higher education with state need grant recipients.

Requires students who receive state need grants to participate in financial aid counseling before receiving their first disbursement.

**SB 6269 – Higher Education Coordination – Prime Sponsor – Sen. Becker**

Assigns Higher Education Coordinating Board duties to the Council for Higher Education and creates a Joint Higher Education Committee to provide legislative oversight of the Council for Higher Education.

Requires the Education Data Center to: (1) annually develop information on the approximate amount of state support that students receive; and (2) Determine and transmit amounts constituting approved undergraduate and graduate educational costs to the several boards of regents and trustees for the state institutions of higher education.

Provides that the director of the office of student financial assistance shall serve at the pleasure of the Council for Higher Education.

**SB 6289 – Self-Employment Training – Prime Sponsor – Sen. Rolfes**

Requires the Employment Security Department (ESD) to inform all individuals eligible for unemployment benefits of the availability of self-employment assistance and entrepreneurial training programs and of the training provisions which would allow them to pursue commissioner approved training.

Individuals who are eligible for services under the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA), must be provided the opportunity to enroll in self-employment assistance or entrepreneurial training programs to prepare them for self-employment on the same basis as they are provided the opportunity to enroll in other training programs funded under WIA.

Requires ESD to work with local workforce development councils to ensure that the contracting process with training providers is efficient and that the number of entrepreneurial training providers on the state's eligible training provider list is sufficient to meet demand.

Requires each local workforce development council to: (a) notify all individuals eligible for services under the workforce investment act of the availability of self-employment assistance and entrepreneurial training; and (b) establish and implement a plan for expending WIA funds on self-employment assistance and entrepreneurial training at a rate that is commensurate with either the demand for such services or the rate of self-employment within the council's workforce development area.

### **Industry-Related**

#### **HB 2155/SB 5982 – Joint Center for Aerospace Technology Innovation – Prime Sponsors– Rep. Kenney/SEN. Kastama (By Request of the Governor)**

Creates the Joint Center for Aerospace Technology Innovation to advance research on new technologies that offer the promise of creating innovative products that can be used in aerospace. Among its duties, the Joint Center is to provide substantial opportunities for training undergraduate and graduate students through direct involvement in research and participation with industry.

#### **HB 2156/SB 5976 - Coordination & Evaluation of Aerospace Training - Prime Sponsors – Rep. Kenney/Sen. Tom (By Request of the Governor)**

Directs the Center of Excellence for Aerospace and Advanced Materials Manufacturing, to: (a) serve as a repository of up-to-date information about the aerospace and advanced materials manufacturing training programs in the state; (b) develop and maintain data in partnership with industry about the demand for training and the current job openings and projected future job openings in aerospace and advanced materials manufacturing and related fields; (c) provide information about grants and partnerships; (d) provide coordination for professional development for training providers; and (e) coordinate and facilitate methods for training programs to obtain industry certification and meet industry standards.

Directs the Workforce Board to annually evaluate aerospace and advanced materials manufacturing training programs, including outcome results both for the persons receiving the training and employers.

Directs the Workforce to conduct a net-impact and cost-benefit evaluation of the training system for aerospace and advanced materials manufacturing industry every four years.

#### **HB 2374/SB 6355 – Associate Development Organizations – Prime Sponsors – Rep. Kenney/Sen. Rolfes**

Requires associate development organizations to: work closely with the Department of Commerce to carry out state-identified economic development priorities; meet and share best practices with other associate development organizations at least two times each year; and use a web-based information system to track data and coordinate work with other economic development partners on business recruitment, retention, expansion, and trade among other requirements.

**HB 2444 –Center for Marine Innovation – Prime Sponsor – Rep. Morris**

Requires the Northwest Center of Excellence for Marine Manufacturing & Technology is to convene and staff a work group comprised of voluntary participants representing certain segments of the marine industry, higher education, public ports, economic development agencies, and workforce development agencies, to develop the Washington Center for Marine Innovation. The work group is directed to design the center to: 1) facilitate research and development of innovative marine manufacturing and marine fuel production technologies and processes; 2) develop related education and training; 3) provide research and other job training opportunities for students; 4) ensure that technologies are easily transferred and implemented; and 5) coordinate the center's activities with other institutions and initiatives.

**HB 2482 – Innovation Partnership Zones – Prime Sponsor – Rep. Kenney**

Requires Innovation Partnership Zones to be part of an industry cluster, which is defined as a geographic concentration of interconnected companies in a single industry; related businesses in other industries, including suppliers and customers; and associated institutions, including government and education.

**HB 2613/SB 5808 – Innovative Industries – Prime Sponsors – Rep. Kenney/Sen. Kastama**

Establishes the Washington Innovative Industries Act to further the continued commercialization and manufacture of innovative products in Washington and the promotion of Washington's industrial products.

Establishes the industry development organization grant program in the department of commerce.

**SB 6371 – Customized Training Program – Prime Sponsor – Sen. Shin**

Eliminates the July 1, 2012 termination date for the Customized Training Program.

**Workforce Development System**

**HB 2171 – Middle Income Jobs – Prime Sponsor – Rep. Green**

Directs the Workforce Board to incorporate information from the area strategic plans into the state comprehensive plan for workforce training and education. The area plans must delineate specific strategies to reach the goal of increasing the percentage of Washington households living in the middle-income bracket or higher.

Requires various agencies to adopt as one of their goals to increase the percentage of Washington households living in the middle-income bracket and to delineate specific strategies to reach the goal.

Requires the Workforce Board to annually review agency strategies and rate the proposed strategies based on criteria adopted by the Board.

**HB 2265 – Washington Works Payments – Prime Sponsor – Rep. Probst**

Directs the Workforce Board (or the successor to the Higher Education Coordinating Board if the voting membership of the successor includes representatives of local school districts, community and technical colleges, four-year institutions of higher education, and workforce development councils) to annually develop a list of fields addressing critical skill shortages that are currently or are expected to be in high economic demand.

Encourages local school districts, community and technical colleges, four-year institutions of higher education, and workforce development councils to redistribute resources and realign course offerings to increase graduations and completions in fields addressing critical skill shortages, and to improve performance on other Washington works indicators.

Encourages the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State Board for community and technical colleges, the higher education coordinating board, and the Workforce Board to identify and publicize best practices for increasing graduations and completions in fields addressing critical skill shortages, and improving performance on other Washington works indicators.

Directs local school districts, community and technical colleges, four-year institutions of higher education, and workforce development councils to request social security numbers from students before graduation or completion.

Defines “student success” as, within one year of graduation or completion, a student either has an annual income that exceeds the federal poverty level, or is enrolled in postsecondary education. Defines “Washington works indicators” as: (a) Increasing graduations and completions; (b) increasing graduations and completions in fields addressing critical skill shortages; (c) increasing student success after graduation or completion; and (d) narrowing the educational opportunity gap for disadvantaged students and minority students.

Directs the Workforce Board (or HECB successor) to annually collect and analyze data on Washington works indicators other than student success. Directs the Workforce Board (or HECB successor) to also annually analyze student success in consultation with the Education Data Center, the Employment Security Department, the Higher Education Coordinating Board or its successor, and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC). Directs the Workforce Board (or HECB successor) and the SBCTC to annually measure performance on Washington works indicators.

Establishes the Washington Works account to reward districts, colleges, institutions, programs, and councils for performance on the Washington works indicators. Directs the Workforce Board (or HECB successor) to annually disburse funds from the Washington works account as rewards for local school districts, community and technical colleges, four-year institutions of higher education, and workforce development councils, for performance on Washington works indicators.

Authorizes the Washington State Apprenticeship and Training council to request that the Workforce Board measure the performance of any or all apprenticeship programs on Washington works indicators.

### **HB 2348 – Workforce Development System – Prime Sponsor – Rep. Reykdal**

Transfers all powers, functions, and duties of the Employment Security Department's Worksource Standards and Integration Division pertaining to the administration of title I-B of the workforce investment act to the Workforce Board.

Directs the Workforce Board and Workforce Development Councils to establish, as their primary mission: (a) developing a workforce with the skills most needed by top industries targeted for growth and recruitment, and (b) increasing the percentage of Washington households living in the middle-income bracket or higher.

Directs the Workforce Board to implement strategies to: (a) Meet market demands for a knowledge-based economy while filling middle-income jobs with sufficient supply of skilled workers; (b) increase the percentage of Washington households living in the middle-income

### **SB 6402 – Elimination of the Workforce Board – Prime Sponsor – Sen. Tom**

Abolishes the Workforce Board and transfers its duties to other bodies.