

**WORKFORCE-RELATED BILLS**  
**2012 Legislative Session**  
**Bills Surviving Floor Cut-off: As of Feb. 22, 2012**

**Youth-Related**

**2SHB 2170 – Career Pathways Act – Prime Sponsor – Rep. Probst**

**Status:** Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee

**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 review the standards for teacher certification to determine whether the standards include the skills and knowledge to offer contextualized learning activities for students.

Encourages institutions of higher education to offer comprehensive career counseling for all students and to develop partnerships with WorkSource agencies to offer counseling services.

### **SHB 2254 – Foster Care Education - Prime Sponsor – Rep. Kagi**

**Status:** Senate Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee

Directs the Department of Social and Health services (DSHS), to the extent funds are appropriated, to contract with at least one nongovernmental entity to administer a program of education coordination for foster care youth.

Creates the Educational Advocacy program under the Department of Social and Health Services that is permitted to use private funds to support the program.

Foster care youth are to be automatically enrolled, with no action necessary by the student or the student's family, in the Washington College Bound Scholarship program. Alters the eligibility for students in dependent care for the College Bound Scholarship. They must be dependent and in grades 7 through 12, or under 21 and not have graduated from high school.

The expiration date of the Passport program the expiration date is extended from 2013 to 2022.

## **Adult-Related**

### **SHB 1650 – State Need Grant – Part-Time – Prime Sponsor: Rep. Hasegawa**

**Status:** Senate Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee

The pilot status of the program allowing part-time students to be eligible for the Student Need Grant (SNG) program and the expiration date are removed. Students who are enrolled or accepted for enrollment for at least three quarter credits, or the equivalent semester hours, in a qualifying higher education program are eligible for SNG.

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

**Status:** Senate Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee

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

### **SHB 2503 – Early Registration for Veterans – Prime Sponsor – Rep. Hansen**

**Status:** Senate Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee

Requires institutions of higher education that offer an early course registration period for any segment of the student population to have a process in place to offer early course registration to students who are eligible veterans or national guard members.

**2SHB 2717 – Innovations in Higher Education – Prime Sponsor – Rep. Seaquist**

**Status:** Senate Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee

Encourages the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to charter a consortium of volunteer community and technical colleges to design innovative approaches to rapidly and substantially increase the cost-effective delivery of developmental and remedial education.

Directs the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to conduct and report on a survey of relevant innovations by any of the colleges and to propose a comprehensive plan for implementing further, system-wide innovations designed to rapidly and substantially increase the cost-effectiveness of remedial and developmental education instruction for the full range of students seeking access to college and university education.

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

**Status:** House Rules Committee – Second Reading

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

**ESB 6141 – Life-Long Learning – Prime Sponsor – Sen. Kilmer**

**Status:** House Rules Committee – Second Reading

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.

**E2SSB 6232 – Student Achievement Council – Prime Sponsor – Sen. Kilmer; By Request of the Governor**

**Status:** House Higher Education Committee

Creates the Student Achievement Council whose mission is to set goals for increasing educational attainment in Washington and to monitor progress toward meeting those goals.

The Executive Director of the Council will be appointed by the Governor from names submitted by the Council. The Council is composed of 9 voting members, including: 4 citizen members appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate; 1 member from a public four-year institution; 1 member from the community and technical college system; 1 member from an independent, non-profit institution; the Superintendent of Public Instruction, or his designee; 1 student, appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate.

The specific duties of the Council are specified and include: 1) developing a 10-year statewide plan for higher education, which includes setting benchmarks and goals for long-term degree production; financial planning for higher education and recommendations for how investments should be utilized; 3) make system design and coordinate recommendations for addressing the future needs of higher education; oversee the Office of Student Financial Assistance; coordinate with the governing boards of institutions.

Creates a Joint Higher Education Committee composed of 4 members from the House of Representatives and 4 members from the Senate to: 1) review the work of the Council and provide feedback; 2) engage with the Council and the higher education community for better alignment between the higher education system and the expectations of the legislature; 3) and provide recommendations for higher education policy to the policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature.

Shifts to the Education Data Center accountability and monitoring reporting system, producing education cost studies, and reporting information regarding approximate amounts of state support students receive.

Removes a number of duties including degree program approvals for four-year institutions and applied baccalaureate degree programs in the CTCs.

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

**Status:** House Rules Committee – Second Reading

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.

### **ESSB 6392 – Farm Internship Program – Prime Sponsor – Sen. Ranker**

**Status:** House Human Services Appropriations & Oversight Committee

Directs the Department of Labor and Industries to establish a farm internship pilot project for the employment of farm interns on small farms under special certificates at wages, if any, as authorized by the department and subject to such limitations as to time, number, proportion, and length of service as provided in this section and as prescribed by the Department. The farm internship agreement must explicitly state that the intern is not entitled to unemployment benefits, and must describe the anticipated number of hours of curriculum instruction provided to the intern per week. The pilot project consists of the following counties: San Juan, Skagit, King, Whatcom, Kitsap, Pierce, Jefferson, Spokane, Thurston, Yakima, Chelan, Grant, Kittitas, and Lincoln.

**SB 6592 – Financial Aid Reform – Prime Sponsor – Sen. Hill**

**Status:** Senate Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee

Streamlines and reforms student financial aid programs.

Repeals the GET ready for math and science scholarship program, the foster care endowed scholarship program, the passport to college promise program, the Washington promise scholarship program, and the opportunity grant program.

**Industry-Related**

**2SHB 2156 - Coordination & Evaluation of Aerospace Training - Prime Sponsor – Rep. Kenney (By Request of the Governor)**

**Status:** Senate Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee

Requires the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (College Board) to facilitate coordination and alignment of aerospace training programs to the maximum extent possible. Coordination and alignment must include, but is not limited to, the following: 1) providing information about aerospace training programs; 2) providing information about grants and partnership opportunities; 3) providing coordination for professional development for faculty and other education and training providers; evaluating certain programs annually for completion and job placement results; and making budget recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature on aerospace training programs.

Requires the College Board to establish the Aerospace and Advanced Materials Manufacturing Pipeline Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee). This Advisory Committee must consist of 11 to 15 members. A majority of members, including the chair, must represent industry. At least two members must represent labor. Other members must be education and training providers, including directors of long-term training, short-term training, and apprenticeship programs. The Advisory Committee is required to: 1) provide direction for a skills gap analysis produced with the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board); 2) establish goals for students served, program completion rates, and employment rates; 3) coordinate and disseminate industry advice for training programs; and 4) recommend training programs for review by the Workforce Board in coordination with the College Board.

Requires the Workforce Board, with the College Board, to annually evaluate training program recommended for review. These evaluations must include outcome results for employers and persons receiving training. The Workforce Board is also required to conduct and complete analyses of the training system, including net impacts, cost-benefit analyses, and outcome results every four years.

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

**Status:** Senate Economic Development, Trade and Innovation Committee

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.

**SHB 2673 – Transportation Workforce – Prime Sponsor – Rep. Clibborn**

**Status:** Senate Transportation Committee

Requires the Department of Transportation to coordinate with the Apprenticeship and Training Council to provide any of the following: (a) preapprenticeship programs; (b) preemployment counseling; (c) orientations on the highway construction industry, including outreach to women, minorities, and other disadvantaged individuals; (d) basic skills improvement classes; (e) career counseling; (f) remedial training; (g) entry requirements for training programs; (h) supportive services and assistance with transportation; (i) child care and special needs; (j) job site mentoring and retention services; and (k) assistance with tools, protective clothing, and other related support for employment costs.

Requires that 1/2 of 1 percent of the funds apportioned to the state under the federal Surface Transportation Program and the Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program be expended to increase diversity in the highway construction workforce.

Directs the Department to annually submit a report containing: (a) An analysis of the results of their activities; (b) the amount available and expended from federal funds for the activities; and (c) the performance outcomes achieved from each activity, including the number of persons receiving services, training, and employment.

**SSB 5982 – Joint Center for Aerospace Technology Innovation – Prime Sponsor – Sen. Kastama (By Request of the Governor)**

**Status:** House Ways and Means Committee

Creates the Joint Center for Aerospace Technology Innovation to pursue joint industry-university research that can be used in aerospace firms, enhance the education of engineering students, and work with the aerospace industry to identify research needs and opportunities to transfer off-the-shelf technologies.

The center is to operate as a multi-institutional center under the joint authority of the University of Washington and Washington State University. The center will have a board of directors appointed by the Governor, representing a cross section of the aerospace industry and higher education. The board is to: 1) hire an executive director; 2) identify research areas to benefit the aerospace industry in Washington; 3) identify entrepreneurial researchers and the steps the universities will take to recruit such researchers; 4) assist firms to integrate existing technologies into their operations; 5) align the center's activities with those of Impact Washington and Innovate Washington; 6) ensure that students enrolled in an aerospace engineering curriculum have direct experience with aerospace firms; 7) assist researchers and firms in guarding intellectual property; 8) promote collaboration between industry and faculty; and 9) develop non-state support for research.

The facilities and resources of the center must be made available to all four-year institutions of higher education.

By June 30, 2013, the board is to develop an operating plan that includes specifics on how the center will accomplish its duties. The board is to provide a biennial report to the Legislature and the Governor. The center may solicit funds from a variety of sources to carry out its obligations.

If specific funding for the purposes of the act is not provided in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and void.

**ESSB 6355 – Associate Development Organizations – Prime Sponsor – Sen. Rolfes**

**Status:** House Rules Committee – Second Reading

Requires Associate Development Organizations (ADOs) to meet and share best practices with each other at least twice annually. In their annual reports to Commerce, ADOs must provide a summary of best practices shared and implemented, employment and economic information on the community or regional area they are serving, and the amount of funding received. Annual

reports may also include information on the impact of the contracting organization on wages, exports, tax revenue, small business creation, foreign direct investment, business relocations, expansions, terminations, and capital investment.

Requires data standards and data definitions to be developed during the contracting process that takes place between Commerce and ADOs every two years. The Washington Economic Development Commission (Commission) is included in the contracting process.

Requires Associate Development Organizations to provide information showing their impact on employment and overall changes in employment in their annual reports.

Innovation Partnership Zones are included in the list of appropriate partners for ADOs to work with when providing assistance to businesses.

Requires the Commission to consult with ADOs in developing the statewide economic development strategy and include information it requests from the ADOs in its progress report. The ADOs must provide the Commission with information to be used in the statewide economic development strategy and progress report. The Commission is permitted to include recommendations for ADOs in the progress report or statewide economic development strategy.

### **SSB 6371 – Customized Training Program – Prime Sponsor – Sen. Shin**

**Status:** House Ways and Means Committee

Extends the program expiration date to July 1, 2017.

## **Workforce Development System**

### **2SHB 2265 – Washington Works Payments – Prime Sponsor – Rep. Probst**

**Status:** Senate Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee

Establishes an 11-member work group consisting of members representing the four-year institutions of higher education, the two largest caucuses in the House of Representatives and the Senate, and the Governor.

Directs the work group to develop a recommended plan for measuring, providing incentives for, and rewarding performance of four-year institutions of higher education.

Specifies that appropriate metrics be examined and recommended, which may include data reported in RCW 28B.76.270 as amended by E2SHB 1795 (2011), and that an appropriate means of rewarding performance be designed and recommended, which must be based on the Student Achievement Initiative.

Directs the Council of Presidents to convene, staff, and pay the expenses of the work group. Requires the work group to report on its recommended plan by December 1, 2012.