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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5304**

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**State of Washington**

**58th Legislature**

**2003 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Senators Kohl-Welles, Carlson, Brown, Horn, Rossi, B. Sheldon, Mulliken, Schmidt, Johnson, Shin and Franklin)

READ FIRST TIME 03/04/03.

1       AN ACT Relating to higher education in high-demand fields and  
2 programs; and adding a new section to chapter 28B.80 RCW.

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

4       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.80 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6       (1) A program to contract for undergraduate and graduate placements  
7 in high-demand fields and programs is created. For purposes of this  
8 program, high-demand fields and programs are programs where enrollment  
9 access is limited and fields where employers are experiencing  
10 difficulty finding enough qualified graduates to fill job openings.  
11 The higher education coordinating board shall administer the program,  
12 subject to appropriation.

13       (2) Washington public community and technical colleges, public  
14 baccalaureate institutions, and private nonprofit colleges and  
15 universities are eligible to apply for high demand enrollment funds.  
16 The board may accept applications for an enrollment contract from an  
17 in-state or border-state, private nonprofit institution but only where  
18 such entities have agreed to partner with one or more public,  
19 Washington state colleges or universities to deliver the educational

1 program in high demand. The board may also accept applications for an  
2 enrollment contract from a public institution or a private nonprofit  
3 institution located in a county participating in the border county  
4 higher education opportunity project under RCW 28B.80.806, but only  
5 where such entities have agreed to partner with an institution of  
6 higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016 to deliver the  
7 educational program in high demand. In all cases, an institution of  
8 higher education must be the fiscal agent, grant-recipient-of-record,  
9 and an active partner in the instruction of participating Washington  
10 students.

11 (3) To review and select among competing proposals for these new  
12 enrollments, the board shall establish an advisory committee consisting  
13 of representatives of the board, the office of financial management,  
14 out-of-state higher education institutions or associations, industry  
15 and labor associations, and economic development and labor market  
16 analysts. The advisory committee shall consult with the board to  
17 develop the request for proposals, including criteria for awarding  
18 grants, and shall recommend projects for funding by the board. The  
19 advisory committee and board shall consider the present and near-term  
20 outlook for in-state employment of graduating students for whom it will  
21 contract to expand access opportunities. In reviewing proposals from  
22 applicants, the board and its advisory committee shall consider  
23 proposals that (a) create opportunities for underrepresented students  
24 in the field of study, (b) respond to unique regional economic  
25 opportunities and promote economic growth in depressed regions of the  
26 state, (c) address health and education professional shortages, (d)  
27 spread the benefit of the state's high-technology economy  
28 geographically, (e) provide employment in a business or economic sector  
29 with significant growth potential supported by data, or (f) include an  
30 articulation agreement to ease the transfer of applicable, lower  
31 division credit earned by participating Washington students. Priority  
32 shall be given to proposals that foster collaboration across  
33 educational sectors.

34 (4) Participating institutions shall cooperate with the board to  
35 collect the data necessary to report to the governor and the  
36 legislature on the impact of the program in this section, particularly  
37 the degree of improved access to high-demand fields and programs for  
38 students and successful job placements for graduates. The board shall

1 profile enrollment contracts let to date and review impacts as part of  
2 the reports. Reports shall be made by December 1st of even-numbered  
3 years to the fiscal and higher education committees of the legislature  
4 and to the office of financial management.

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