

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 5402

C 352 L 93

SYNOPSIS AS ENACTED

Brief Description: Authorizing a study of the feasibility of expanding literacy in mathematics, science, and technology.

SPONSORS: Senate Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Senators Jesernig, Sellar, Bauer and Hochstatter)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

BACKGROUND:

Over the past ten years many national studies have documented a decline in the quality of mathematics and science education in the United States. Educators and scientists have noted a general functional illiteracy in, and aversion to, the subjects of science and mathematics. In 1989, the Charlottesville Education Summit adopted the goal of making the United States first in the world in science and mathematics achievement.

There is also a growing consensus that the state of Washington needs to diversify its economy by attracting and developing new high technology related industries. These new educational and economic factors bring many to the conclusion that improving literacy and education in the areas of mathematics, science and technology will become increasingly important to the future of the state.

SUMMARY:

The Higher Education Coordinating Board may solicit, receive and expend private gifts and grants to conduct a study on the feasibility of creating a Washington State institute for science, technology, and society. If sufficient funds are available by July 1, 1994, the board may contract with an appropriate person or entity to conduct the study. The study must be completed by July 1, 1995. The Higher Education Coordinating Board must report the findings, conclusions and recommendations to the Legislature by January 1, 1996.

The study will identify the appropriate role and mission of an institute, examine options for a governmental structure and location, and determine options for funding.

The purposes of a Washington State institute for science, technology and society are identified: implement a long-range mathematics, science and technology literacy program; develop

and disseminate textbooks and course materials; provide training through workshops and institutes; coordinate the dissemination of information to groups and agencies; and provide technical expertise to common schools and institutions of higher education.

VOTES ON FINAL PASSAGE:

Senate	48	0	
House	90	4	(House amended)
Senate	41	0	(Senate concurred)

EFFECTIVE: July 25, 1993