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5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
6 following:

7 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds and declares that:

8 Providing greater flexibility and access to undergraduate degree
9 programs for the working adult population is of vital importance to the
10 expansion of economic opportunities for individuals and families.

11 Existing degree programs are not providing the needed flexibility
12 for many working adults. In order to provide greater access to a
13 larger portion of the working adult population, more creative
14 alternatives to the traditional time and place-bound educational
15 delivery system must be developed.

16 As demonstrated in other states, the opportunity for working adult
17 students to earn college credit for clearly demonstrating important
18 knowledge that they have attained in the workplace is a key element for
19 providing greater access to undergraduate degree programs. These
20 credit-for-prior-learning-experience opportunities have also been shown
21 to be most effective when they are offered as a component of distance
22 learning programs. Many institutions of higher education in Washington
23 provide opportunities to earn credit for prior learning experience, but
24 they are not adequately included as a component of distance learning
25 programs.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The higher education coordinating board
27 shall contract with one or more public and/or independent institutions
28 of higher education, as defined in RCW 28B.10.016 and 28B.07.020(4), to
29 provide access to higher education on a pilot project basis in Clark
30 county. Beginning no later than the fall term of 1996, the access will
31 be provided through a distance learning degree program that contains an
32 opportunity for students to earn credits for prior experiential
33 learning in a portfolio-based credit for prior experiential learning
34 opportunity structured by the guidelines and standards set forth by the
35 northwest association of schools and colleges.

1 The higher education coordinating board shall monitor and evaluate
2 the pilot project baccalaureate degree program and shall report to the
3 senate and house of representatives higher education committees by
4 December 1, 1998. Elements in the report shall include but not be
5 limited to the number of students served, the number of degrees
6 granted, the ability of the credit for prior learning component to be
7 self-sustaining, and the satisfaction of the students, graduates, and
8 the employer community.

9 In order to best meet the needs of the citizens of southwest
10 Washington, the higher education coordinating board will work together
11 with the administrations of local public higher education institutions
12 and the local business community in developing the pilot project.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
14 act, referencing this act by bill number, is not provided by June 30,
15 1995, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act shall be null and
16 void.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
18 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
19 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
20 effect immediately."

21 **2SSB 5557** - H COMM AMD
22 By Committee on Higher Education

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24 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "education;" strike the
25 remainder of the title and insert "creating new sections; and declaring
26 an emergency."

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