

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6177

As of January 10, 2000

Title: An act relating to doctoral programs in computer science and engineering.

Brief Description: Requiring recommendations about the creation of a doctoral program in computer science and engineering.

Sponsors: Senators Jacobsen, Kohl-Welles and Costa.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Higher Education: 1/17/2000.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Staff: Jean Six (786-7423)

Background: The state of Washington is experiencing growing demands for supplying the skilled workforce required by the high-technology industry. Some believe that postsecondary education must be more responsive to the workforce needs of the software industry, particularly at the postgraduate level.

Summary of Bill: By June 30, 2001, the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) must make recommendations to the Legislature about the creation and institutional location of a doctoral program in computer science and engineering. The HECB must evaluate future and current job opportunities for doctoral degree holders in Washington State and the United States; the number of persons with doctoral degrees currently employed in Washington and the names of the doctoral granting institutions; and the number of Washington students who would be interested in pursuing doctoral degrees.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 10, 2000.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.