
HOUSE BILL 2978

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Ruderman, Van Luven, Hatfield, Stensen, Ogden, Kessler, Wood, Conway, Lantz, Keiser and Santos

Read first time 01/25/2000. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to training for high technology job opportunities;
2 adding a new chapter to Title 28B RCW; and making appropriations.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that Washington's
5 booming high technology industries are unable to hire enough Washington
6 residents to meet their needs for highly skilled employees. At the
7 same time, many Washington residents are interested in high technology
8 fields, but access to programs in institutions of higher education that
9 would prepare them to take well-paying positions in information
10 technology and other high technology fields is constrained by the
11 insufficient number of available enrollment slots at the institutions.

12 (2) The legislature recognizes that students, workers, institutions
13 of higher education, high technology industries, and our state's
14 economy as a whole depend upon improving the state's capacity to
15 prepare more Washington residents to enter and succeed in the growing
16 high technology sector of the economy.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The information technology enrollment
18 grant program is created and shall be administered by the higher

1 education coordinating board. The purpose of this grant program is to
2 provide additional opportunities to enroll at public baccalaureate
3 institutions in programs that lead to degrees and other recognized
4 credentials in information technology.

5 (2) The board shall award grants through a competitive selection
6 process. In order to be eligible for grants under this chapter, the
7 grant application must demonstrate that the proposed project is
8 supported by at least a fifty-percent matching contribution of nonstate
9 cash or donations from nonstate sources. State funds awarded through
10 this program may be used to pay for faculty, staff, or equipment for
11 computer science, computer engineering, or related disciplines. The
12 maximum grant any institution may receive under this program is one
13 million dollars.

14 (3) The board shall report to the governor and the legislature
15 annually by December 15th on the implementation of this program and
16 shall include any recommendations the board may have for changes to the
17 program.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The information technology partnership
19 grant program is created and shall be administered by the state board
20 for community and technical colleges. The purpose of the program is to
21 improve opportunities to enroll in information technology and computer
22 science programs at the community and technical colleges.

23 (2) The board shall award grants through a competitive selection
24 process. Colleges, partnerships of colleges, or partnerships of
25 colleges and K-12 school districts may apply for grants under this
26 program. In order to be eligible for a grant under this chapter, the
27 grant application must demonstrate that the proposed project is
28 supported by at least a fifty-percent matching contribution of nonstate
29 cash or donations from nonstate sources.

30 (3) Priority shall be given to proposed programs that prepare
31 students to meet industry standards, achieve industry skill
32 certificates, or to continue upper division computer science or
33 computer engineering studies. The maximum grant that may be awarded to
34 any applicant under this program is three hundred thousand dollars.

35 (4) The board shall report to the governor and the legislature
36 annually by December 15th on the implementation of this program and
37 shall include any recommendations the board may have for changes to the
38 program.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act constitute
2 a new chapter in Title 28B RCW.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The sum of one million two hundred thousand
4 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
5 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, from the general fund to the
6 higher education coordinating board for the purposes of section 2 of
7 this act.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The sum of one million two hundred thousand
9 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
10 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, from the general fund to the
11 state board for community and technical colleges for the purposes of
12 section 3 of this act.

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