

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 5552

C 130 L 02
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Expanding border county higher education opportunities.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Senators Carlson, Kohl-Welles, Hale, B. Sheldon, Hewitt, Sheahan, Shin, Zarelli, Parlette and Horn).

Senate Committee on Higher Education
House Committee on Higher Education
House Committee on Appropriations

Background: In 1999, the Legislature created the Border County Higher Education Pilot Project administered by the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB). Under the pilot project, residents of Oregon who have resided in Columbia, Multnomah, Clatsop or Washington counties for at least 90 days are eligible to pay resident tuition rates if they enroll in community college programs located in the Washington counties of Clark, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, or Pacific. Residents of the four Oregon counties who enroll in courses at the Vancouver branch of Washington State University for eight or fewer credits may pay resident tuition rates. Participating Washington institutions are required to give priority program enrollment to Washington residents. In 2000, the pilot project was expanded to include residents of Clackamas County, Oregon.

By November 30, 2001, the HECB must report to the Governor and the Legislature on the results of the pilot project and make recommendations on the extent to which border county tuition policies should be revised or expanded. For each participating institution, the HECB is required to analyze, by program, the impact of the pilot project on enrollment levels, distribution of students by residency, and enrollment capacity.

Summary: The project continues as a pilot and is expanded to allow Washington institutions of higher education located in counties on the Oregon border to implement tuition policies that correspond to Oregon policies. Columbia Basin Community College, Walla Walla Community College, and the Tri-Cities branch of Washington State University are added to the list of participating Washington institutions of higher education. A number of Oregon counties are added to the project and eligible students must reside in all participating counties for one year. The HECB must submit a report to the Legislature by December 1, 2003.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	47	0	
House	96	0	(House amended)
Senate	46	0	(Senate concurred)

Effective: June 13, 2002