

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5241

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As of February 14, 2003

**Title:** An act relating to state funding for the enrollments of the state's institutions of higher education.

**Brief Description:** Changing enrollment forecasts and budgeting for institutions of higher education.

**Sponsors:** Senators Kohl-Welles, Carlson, Shin, Schmidt, B. Sheldon, Horn and Winsley.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Higher Education: 2/17/03.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

**Staff:** Jean Six (786-7423)

**Background:** When the Legislature makes state appropriations to support the enrollment level at the state research universities, comprehensive universities and colleges, and the community and technical colleges, new money to increase existing enrollments is appropriated as a discretionary policy decision.

Research demonstrates the economy is demanding many more highly trained, skilled workers and citizens -- meaning that enrollments in colleges and universities must grow to meet that demand.

**Summary of Bill:** It is state policy to provide appropriations to meet the demand for higher education in the state. The state budget is required to include increased funding, up to the fiscal growth factor under Initiative 601, to support the level of actual higher education enrollment reported during the immediate prior school year. State financial aid is adjusted accordingly.

Higher education enrollment information systems currently maintained by the Office of Financial Management are transferred to the Office of the Forecast Council.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

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