

E2SSB 5441 - H COMM AMD  
By Committee on Appropriations

ADOPTED 04/07/2005

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

4 (1) The early years mark the most extraordinary period of growth  
5 for young children. The state's role in providing access to early  
6 learning opportunities has never been consistently defined;

7 (2) More than a quarter of a century has passed since the current  
8 school finance system was first created, and the challenges facing our  
9 schools and students have grown and changed dramatically during that  
10 time. Policies have been established creating new expectations and  
11 goals for students under education reform;

12 (3) Demographic pressures and work force needs will continue to  
13 increase demand for access to postsecondary education and training.  
14 Public two-year and four-year institutions of higher education are also  
15 important avenues for programs such as adult basic education and  
16 English as a second language that are the foundation for employment and  
17 further education for an increasing number of people. Washington ranks  
18 thirty-third in the nation in the number of bachelor's degrees earned  
19 per one thousand residents ages twenty through twenty-nine years, and  
20 will graduate the largest high school class in its history in 2008.  
21 Washington citizens deserve access to baccalaureate degree  
22 opportunities. Washington's public universities and colleges engage in  
23 research that contributes to the economic and social well-being of the  
24 state. Students have paid an increasing cost of their education with  
25 tuition growing faster than personal income or inflation; and

26 (4) Through a comprehensive study, the legislature will have solid  
27 information to determine how best to use its resources to create a  
28 strong education system that will provide an educated citizenry and a  
29 thriving economy in this state.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    (1)    The comprehensive education study  
2 steering committee is created.

3        (2) Members of the steering committee shall include: The governor  
4 who shall chair the steering committee; the director of the office of  
5 financial management; two members from the house of representatives  
6 with one appointed by each major caucus; two members from the senate  
7 with one appointed by each major caucus; four citizens appointed by the  
8 governor; and the chairs of each of the three advisory committees  
9 created under subsection (3) of this section. The chair of the  
10 advisory committee on K-12 shall be the superintendent of public  
11 instruction. The chair of the advisory committee on early learning  
12 shall be the nongovernmental cochair of the Washington early learning  
13 council, created in Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill No. 1152.  
14 The chair of the advisory committee on higher education shall be  
15 selected by the governor from a list of three or more names submitted  
16 by the state board for community and technical colleges, the higher  
17 education coordinating board, and the council of presidents.

18        (3) The steering committee shall appoint the members of the  
19 advisory committee on K-12 and the advisory committee on higher  
20 education. In addition, the two major caucuses in the senate and the  
21 two major caucuses in the house of representatives shall each appoint  
22 one member to serve on the K-12 advisory committee and one member to  
23 serve on the higher education advisory committee. The Washington early  
24 learning council, created in Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill No.  
25 1152, shall serve as the advisory committee on early learning.

26        (4) The steering committee shall receive staff and logistical  
27 support from the office of financial management.

28        (5) Nonlegislative members of the steering committee shall be  
29 reimbursed for travel expenses under RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

30        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    (1) The steering committee:

31        (a) Shall direct and coordinate the studies created in this  
32 section. In conducting the studies, consideration shall be given to  
33 recently completed, related finance studies, with particular attention  
34 to those initiated by or completed at the request of the legislature;

35        (b) May enter into contracts as needed to support the work of the  
36 study;

1 (c) Shall develop recommendations based on the work of the studies  
2 in this section; and

3 (d) Shall develop recommendations about how the state can best  
4 provide stable funding for student learning for young children,  
5 students in the public schools, and students in the public colleges and  
6 universities.

7 (2) A comprehensive K-12 finance study shall include, but not be  
8 limited to:

9 (a) The constitutional and legal requirements underlying the  
10 current finance system and how those requirements are affected by the  
11 goal under education reform to provide all students with the  
12 opportunity to achieve the state standards;

13 (b) The strengths and weaknesses of the current state and local  
14 finance formulas and how those formulas are used by local school  
15 districts to meet state requirements and student learning goals;

16 (c) Information regarding remediation particularly in the subject  
17 areas of mathematics, science, and language arts;

18 (d) Potential changes to the current finance system including the  
19 methods of allocating funds, levels of funding, and how student  
20 achievement is affected;

21 (e) Reviewing the funding systems in at least five other states;

22 (f) Specific issues facing schools: Assuring program  
23 accountability; improving effectiveness in state-level governance;  
24 identifying efficiencies in district spending practices; providing  
25 programs that assist students in meeting standards; helping students  
26 stay in school; impacts of the certification requirements for teachers;  
27 improving the effectiveness of English language learner instruction;  
28 and appropriate preparation requirements for paraeducators;

29 (g) Local and regional funding challenges faced by individual  
30 school districts throughout the state; and

31 (h) Potential changes to the current salary system that would be  
32 more closely related to professional development and enhancement of  
33 student performance.

34 (3) A comprehensive study of early learning shall include, but not  
35 be limited to:

36 (a) Defining the populations being served, those that could be  
37 served, and program access;

1 (b) Determining the state's role in supporting quality early  
2 learning opportunities;

3 (c) Determining the state's role in training persons providing  
4 services; and

5 (d) Providing for smooth transitions to K-12 programs.

6 (4) A comprehensive study of higher education shall include, but  
7 not be limited to:

8 (a) Options for creating a new funding system;

9 (b) The number and distribution of enrollments at two and four-year  
10 institutions of higher education needed to meet demographic and work  
11 force training needs;

12 (c) Methods for determining the cost of instruction in various  
13 program areas;

14 (d) Methods for developing common articulation of lower division  
15 work;

16 (e) The appropriate share of the cost of instruction that should be  
17 funded through tuition, general fund-state subsidies, and financial  
18 aid;

19 (f) Providing for smooth transitions from high school to college,  
20 including dual credit options and adequate preparation for  
21 college-level coursework;

22 (g) Identifying strategies and associated costs to increase  
23 opportunity for access to baccalaureate degrees at public institutions  
24 of higher education;

25 (h) Identifying incentives to optimize research conducted by public  
26 universities and colleges that has the potential to stimulate the  
27 economy and address economic and social issues relevant to Washington  
28 citizens;

29 (i) Options for using existing capacity in independent colleges and  
30 universities;

31 (j) A review of higher education governance as it relates to fiscal  
32 policy for higher education; and

33 (k) Options for coordinating capital and operating appropriations.

34 (5) The steering committee shall provide interim reports to the  
35 appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the senate and the house of  
36 representatives by November 15, 2005, and June 16, 2006. These interim  
37 reports shall document ongoing work to-date, initial findings, and next

1 steps. The November 15, 2005, interim report may recommend possible  
2 action items for consideration in the 2006 legislative session.

3 (6) The final report and recommendations of the steering committee  
4 shall be submitted to the legislature by November 15, 2006.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act expires July 1, 2007."

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