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ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2630

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

**By** House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Kenney, Cox, Kessler, Priest, Conway, Hunter, Buri, Fromhold, Sells, Grant, Ormsby, Quall, Haigh, Clements, Roberts, Upthegrove, McDermott, Hasegawa, Santos, Flannigan, Appleton, Rodne, Clibborn, Simpson, Linville, Kagi, Dickerson, P. Sullivan, Morrell, Moeller, Ericks and Kilmer)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/06.

1 AN ACT Relating to postsecondary education, including creating the  
2 opportunity grant program; adding new sections to chapter 28B.50 RCW;  
3 creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

6 (1) Increasing Washington's economic competitiveness requires  
7 increasing the supply of skilled workers in the state; and

8 (2) Improving the labor market competitiveness of all Washington  
9 residents requires that all residents have access to postsecondary  
10 education.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW  
12 to read as follows:

13 (1) The college board, a nonprofit organization that has been  
14 established to address work force development issues by a recognized  
15 statewide organization of employers representing a majority of  
16 employers in the state, and the work force training and education  
17 coordinating board, in consultation with a statewide high-technology  
18 organization, shall:

1 (a) Identify high demand occupations, which are occupations where  
2 employer demand for workers exceeds the supply of qualified job  
3 applicants;

4 (b) Convene or use existing industry groups, such as industry skill  
5 panels or other industry or occupational entities, to identify the  
6 skill sets that workers need in the high demand occupations;

7 (c) Develop and identify credentials and credit-bearing curriculum  
8 recognized by postsecondary institutions and employers statewide and  
9 that are based on the attainment of the skill sets needed in  
10 occupations in high demand sectors;

11 (d) Market the credentials or certificates and credit-bearing  
12 curriculum to potential students and employers as a way for them to  
13 advance in their careers; and

14 (e) Gain recognition of the credentials or certificates and credit-  
15 bearing curriculum by employers.

16 (2) In carrying out the functions of this section, the college  
17 board shall give priority to high demand occupations in industry  
18 sectors important to the economic growth of the state.

19 (3) The college board may, in implementing this section, accept,  
20 use, and dispose of contributions of money, services, and property.  
21 All moneys received by the college board for the purposes of this  
22 section must be deposited in a depository approved by the state  
23 treasurer. Disbursements of such funds shall be on authorization of  
24 the college board or a duly authorized representative thereof. In  
25 order to maintain an effective expenditure and revenue control, such  
26 funds are subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no  
27 appropriation is required to permit expenditure of such funds.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW  
29 to read as follows:

30 (1) The college board shall develop and implement a work force  
31 education program known as the opportunity grant program to provide  
32 funding for low-income students enrolled in the program, including but  
33 not limited to funding tuition, books, and fees. The college board  
34 must:

35 (a) Begin developing the program no later than March 15, 2006, with  
36 student enrollment to begin no later than January 1, 2007; and

1 (b) Submit a progress report to the legislature by January 15,  
2 2008.

3 (2) The college board may, in implementing the opportunity grant  
4 program, accept, use, and dispose of contributions of money, services,  
5 and property. All moneys received by the college board for the program  
6 must be deposited in a depository approved by the state treasurer.  
7 Disbursements of such funds shall be on authorization of the college  
8 board or a duly authorized representative thereof. In order to  
9 maintain an effective expenditure and revenue control, such funds are  
10 subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is  
11 required to permit expenditure of such funds.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The work force training and education  
13 coordinating board, with cooperation from the college board and the  
14 higher education coordinating board, shall conduct a study to include:

15 (a) A review of and recommendations for consolidating and  
16 simplifying the delivery of state-funded and federally funded work  
17 force education programs and work force education aid offered to  
18 students in this state, with a goal of achieving easier access to  
19 postsecondary education for students;

20 (b) A description of barriers that exist to combining work force  
21 education programs and work force education aid, such as state or  
22 federal statutes, rules, or regulations, and the relief that may be  
23 available through federal waivers;

24 (c) An estimate of the funding gap between available work force  
25 education aid and the financial needs of students living in this state;

26 (d) A description of barriers to access to and completion of work  
27 force education programs in this state; and

28 (e) Recommendations for increasing participation and completion  
29 rates for work force education programs.

30 (2) The work force training and education coordinating board must  
31 submit its report on the study to the legislature by November 15, 2006,  
32 and must coordinate its study and research with the Washington Learns  
33 study of postsecondary education.

34 (3) The work force training and education coordinating board may,  
35 in carrying out this study, accept, use, and dispose of contributions  
36 of money, services, and property. All moneys received by the work  
37 force training and education coordinating board for the study must be

1 deposited in a depository approved by the state treasurer.  
2 Disbursements of such funds shall be on authorization of the work force  
3 training and education coordinating board or a duly authorized  
4 representative thereof. In order to maintain an effective expenditure  
5 and revenue control, such funds are subject in all respects to chapter  
6 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required to permit expenditure of  
7 such funds.

8 (4) For purposes of this section:

9 (a) "Financial needs" includes but is not limited to tuition,  
10 books, fees, tools, living expenses, and child care expenses.

11 (b) "Work force education aid" means financial aid, funded from  
12 state or federal sources, provided to students enrolled in work force  
13 education programs.

14 (c) "Work force education programs" means education and skills  
15 training, including vocational education, apprenticeships, adult basic  
16 education linked to vocational education, work force education under  
17 RCW 28C.18.010, work force training provided under chapter 74.08A RCW,  
18 and any other related work force training program.

19 (5) This section expires December 31, 2006.

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