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ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5441

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

**By** Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Weinstein, McAuliffe, Prentice, Kohl-Welles, Eide, Berkey, Poulsen, Keiser, Brown, Fraser, Shin, Haugen, Schmidt, Kline, Rockefeller, Spanel and Rasmussen; by request of Governor Gregoire)

READ FIRST TIME 02/28/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to studying early learning, K-12, and higher  
2 education; creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

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

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

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

13 (3) Demographic pressures and work force needs will continue to  
14 increase demand for access to postsecondary education and training.  
15 Public two-year and four-year institutions of higher education are also  
16 important avenues for programs such as adult basic education and  
17 English as a second language that are the foundation for employment and  
18 further education for an increasing number of people. Washington ranks  
19 thirty-third in the nation in the number of bachelor's degrees earned

1 per one thousand residents ages twenty through twenty-nine years, and  
2 will graduate the largest high school class in its history in 2008.  
3 Washington citizens deserve access to baccalaureate degree  
4 opportunities. Washington's public universities and colleges engage in  
5 research that contributes to the economic and social well-being of the  
6 state. Students have paid an increasing cost of their education with  
7 tuition growing faster than personal income or inflation; and

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

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

14 (2) Members of the steering committee shall include: The governor  
15 who shall chair the steering committee; the director of the office of  
16 financial management; two members from the house of representatives  
17 with one appointed by each major caucus; two members from the senate  
18 with one appointed by each major caucus; four citizens appointed by the  
19 governor; and the chairs of each of the three advisory committees  
20 created under subsection (3) of this section. The chair of the  
21 advisory committee on K-12 shall be the superintendent of public  
22 instruction. The chair of the advisory committee on early learning  
23 shall be appointed by the governor from a list of names submitted by  
24 groups representing early learning. The chair of the advisory  
25 committee on higher education shall be selected by the governor from a  
26 list of three or more names submitted by the state board for community  
27 and technical colleges, the higher education coordinating board, and  
28 the council of presidents.

29 (3) The steering committee shall appoint the members of the  
30 advisory committee on early learning, the advisory committee on K-12,  
31 and the advisory committee on higher education.

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

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

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

1 (a) Shall direct and coordinate the studies created in this  
2 section. In conducting the studies, consideration shall be given to  
3 recently completed, related finance studies;

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

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

8 (d) Shall develop recommendations about how the state can best  
9 provide stable funding for student learning for young children,  
10 students in the public schools, and students in the public colleges and  
11 universities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (f) Specific issues facing schools: Assuring program  
28 accountability; improving effectiveness in state-level governance;  
29 identifying efficiencies in district spending practices; providing  
30 programs that assist students in meeting standards; helping students  
31 stay in school; impacts of the certification requirements for teachers;  
32 and appropriate preparation requirements for paraeducators; and

33 (g) Local and regional funding challenges faced by individual  
34 school districts throughout the state.

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

37 (a) Defining the populations being served, those that could be  
38 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) The appropriate share of the cost of instruction that should be  
15 funded through tuition, general fund-state subsidies, and financial  
16 aid;

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

20 (f) Identifying strategies and associated costs to increase  
21 opportunity for access to baccalaureate degrees at public institutions  
22 of higher education;

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

27 (h) Options for using existing capacity in independent colleges and  
28 universities;

29 (i) A review of higher education governance as it relates to fiscal  
30 policy for higher education; and

31 (j) Options for coordinating capital and operating appropriations.

32 (5) The steering committee shall provide interim reports to the  
33 appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the senate and the house of  
34 representatives by November 15, 2005, and June 16, 2006. These interim  
35 reports shall document ongoing work to-date, initial findings, and next  
36 steps. The November 15, 2005, interim report may recommend possible  
37 action items for consideration in the 2006 legislative session.

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

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

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