

SSB 5254 - H COMM AMD

By Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

ADOPTED 03/05/2008

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that a skilled
4 work force is essential for employers and job seekers to compete in
5 today's global economy. The engines of economic progress are fueled by
6 education and training. The legislature further finds that industry
7 skill panels are a critical and proven form of public-private
8 partnership that harness the expertise of leaders in business, labor,
9 and education to identify work force development strategies for
10 industries that drive Washington's regional economies. Industry skill
11 panels foster innovation and enable industry leaders and public
12 partners to be proactive, addressing changing needs for businesses
13 quickly and strategically. Industry skill panels leverage small state
14 investments with private sector investments to ensure that public
15 resources are better aligned with industry needs.

16 (2) The legislature further finds that industry skill panels
17 support other valuable initiatives such as the department of community,
18 trade, and economic development's cluster-based economic development
19 grants; the community and technical college centers of excellence,
20 high-demand funds, and the job skills program; and the employment
21 security department's incumbent worker training funds. Industry skill
22 panels provide a framework for coordinating these and other investments
23 in line with economic and work force development strategies identified
24 by industry leaders. It is the intent of the legislature to support
25 the development and maintenance of industry skill panels in key sectors
26 of the economy as an efficient and effective way to support regional
27 economic development.

28 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28C.18.010 and 1996 c 99 s 2 are each amended to read
29 as follows:

1 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
2 this section apply throughout this title.

3 (1) "Board" means the work force training and education
4 coordinating board.

5 (2) "Director" means the director of the work force training and
6 education coordinating board.

7 (3) "Training system" means programs and courses of secondary
8 vocational education, technical college programs and courses, community
9 college vocational programs and courses, private career school and
10 college programs and courses, employer-sponsored training, adult basic
11 education programs and courses, programs and courses funded by the
12 (~~job training partnership~~) federal workforce investment act, programs
13 and courses funded by the federal vocational act, programs and courses
14 funded under the federal adult education act, publicly funded programs
15 and courses for adult literacy education, and apprenticeships, and
16 programs and courses offered by private and public nonprofit
17 organizations that are representative of communities or significant
18 segments of communities and provide job training or adult literacy
19 services.

20 (4) "Work force skills" means skills developed through applied
21 learning that strengthen and reinforce an individual's academic
22 knowledge, critical thinking, problem solving, and work ethic and,
23 thereby, develop the employability, occupational skills, and management
24 of home and work responsibilities necessary for economic independence.

25 (5) "Vocational education" means organized educational programs
26 offering a sequence of courses which are directly related to the
27 preparation or retraining of individuals in paid or unpaid employment
28 in current or emerging occupations requiring other than a baccalaureate
29 or advanced degree. Such programs shall include competency-based
30 applied learning which contributes to an individual's academic
31 knowledge, higher-order reasoning, and problem-solving skills, work
32 attitudes, general employability skills, and the occupational-specific
33 skills necessary for economic independence as a productive and
34 contributing member of society. Such term also includes applied
35 technology education.

36 (6) "Adult basic education" means instruction designed to achieve
37 mastery of skills in reading, writing, oral communication, and
38 computation at a level sufficient to allow the individual to function

1 effectively as a parent, worker, and citizen in the United States,
2 commensurate with that individual's actual ability level, and includes
3 English as a second language and preparation and testing service for
4 the general education development exam.

5 (7) "Industry skill panel" means a regional partnership of
6 business, labor, and education leaders that identifies skill gaps in a
7 key economic cluster and enables the industry and public partners to
8 respond to and be proactive in addressing workforce skill needs.

9 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 28C.18 RCW
10 to read as follows:

11 (1) Subject to funding provided for the purposes of this section,
12 the board, in consultation with the state board for community and
13 technical colleges, the department of community, trade, and economic
14 development, and the employment security department, shall allocate
15 grants on a competitive basis to establish and support industry skill
16 panels.

17 (2) Eligible applicants for the grants allocated under this section
18 include, but are not limited to, work force development councils,
19 community and technical colleges, economic development councils,
20 private career schools, chambers of commerce, trade associations, and
21 apprenticeship councils.

22 (3) Entities applying for a grant under this section shall provide
23 an employer match of at least twenty-five percent to be eligible. The
24 local match may include in-kind services.

25 (4) It shall be the role of industry skill panels funded under this
26 chapter to enable businesses in the industry to address work force
27 skill needs. Industry skill panels shall identify work force
28 strategies to meet the needs in order to benefit employers and workers
29 across the industry. Examples of strategies include, but are not
30 limited to: Developing career guidance materials; producing or
31 updating skill standards and curricula; designing training programs and
32 courses; developing technical assessments and certifications; arranging
33 employer mentoring, tutoring, and internships; identifying private
34 sector assistance in providing faculty or equipment to training
35 providers; and organizing industry conferences disseminating best
36 practices. The products and services of particular skill panels shall
37 depend upon the needs of the industry.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 The board shall establish industry skill panel standards that
4 identify the expectations for industry skill panel products and
5 services. The board shall establish the standards in consultation with
6 labor, the state board for community and technical colleges, the
7 employment security department, the institute of workforce development
8 and economic sustainability, and the department of community, trade,
9 and economic development. Continued funding of particular industry
10 skill panels shall be based on meeting the standards established by the
11 board under this section. Beginning December 1, 2008, the board shall
12 report annually to the governor and the economic development and higher
13 education committees of the legislature on the results of the industry
14 skill panels funded under this chapter in meeting the standards.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
16 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
17 June 30, 2008, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
18 void."

19 Correct the title.

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