

SSB 5731 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on Higher Education

ADOPTED AS AMENDED 04/11/2007

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The state of Washington leads the nation in
4 providing employment for people with baccalaureate degrees, but only
5 ranks thirty-sixth in the nation in the production of degrees.
6 Beginning in 2007 it is estimated that for job openings in Washington
7 that require a bachelor's degree, forty-seven percent will be in fields
8 identified as high demand or high impact, but that only fourteen
9 percent of Washington students each year graduate with degrees in one
10 of these fields. Washington ranks among the top ten states in
11 scientists and computer specialists employed per capita and leads the
12 nation in engineers employed per capita, but must import employees to
13 meet employer demands. Additionally, Washington does not produce a
14 sufficient number of newly prepared workers in areas that require more
15 than one year but less than four years of higher education. The in-
16 state supply at this mid-level of education and training is sufficient
17 to fill only eighty-three percent of employer job openings that require
18 that level of training. Therefore, the legislature finds that
19 Washington needs to produce eight to ten thousand additional
20 baccalaureate degrees per year so that Washington employers will not
21 have to look out of state to find employees. The legislature further
22 finds that Washington needs to enroll over fourteen thousand additional
23 students at the mid-level of education and training in order to meet
24 employer demand.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A committee on the education of students
26 in high demand fields is established to:

27 (a) Develop a plan to increase the number of baccalaureate degrees
28 granted by Washington institutions of higher education by ten thousand

1 per year and to significantly increase the number of certificates and
2 associate degrees granted by 2020 with a special emphasis directed
3 toward high impact, high demand areas of study;

4 (b) Develop a marketing project to inform students, parents, and
5 educators of opportunities in high demand fields;

6 (c) Investigate ways to motivate students to take more mathematics
7 and science courses in high school and college; and

8 (d) Identify ways that the business community can enter into more
9 partnerships with the state to ensure that Washington institutions of
10 higher education produce graduates in high demand fields that are ready
11 and able to find employment in Washington.

12 (2) The committee shall be convened by the prosperity partnership
13 and cochaired by a member of the house of representatives and a member
14 of the senate. It shall consist of:

15 (a) Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the
16 speaker of the house of representatives;

17 (b) Two members of the senate, appointed by the president of the
18 senate;

19 (c) One person representing the higher education coordinating
20 board, appointed by the director of the board;

21 (d) One person representing the state board for community and
22 technical colleges, appointed by the director of the state board;

23 (e) One person representing the state workforce training and
24 education coordinating board, appointed by the director of the board;

25 (f) One person representing the office of the superintendent of
26 public instruction, appointed by the superintendent of public
27 instruction;

28 (g) One person representing each of the following, appointed by the
29 governor:

30 (i) The labor council;

31 (ii) The council of presidents;

32 (iii) The prosperity partnership;

33 (iv) The council of faculty representatives; and

34 (v) One employer of persons in high demand fields; and

35 (h) A graduate student member of the Washington student lobby,
36 appointed by the governor.

37 (3) The prosperity partnership shall report the committee's

1 findings and recommendations to appropriate committees of the
2 legislature by December 1, 2007.

3 (4) This section expires December 31, 2007."

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