

ESSB 6295 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on Higher Education

NOT CONSIDERED 03/05/2008

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there are many
4 working adults in Washington that need additional postsecondary
5 educational opportunities to further develop their employability. The
6 legislature further finds that many of these people postpone or call
7 off their personal educational plans because they are busy working and
8 raising their families. Because the largest portion of our workforce
9 over the next thirty years is already employed but in need of skill
10 development, and because many low-wage, low-skilled, and mid-skilled
11 individuals cannot take advantage of postsecondary educational
12 opportunities as they currently exist, the legislature intends to
13 identify and test additional postsecondary educational opportunities
14 tailored to make postsecondary education accessible to working adults
15 through the use of campuses extended to include workplace-based
16 educational offerings.

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

19 (1) To the extent funds are available for this purpose and in
20 partnership with the state board for community and technical colleges,
21 the board shall convene a work group that includes representatives from
22 the prosperity partnership, the technology alliance, the higher
23 education coordinating board, a private career or vocational school, a
24 four-year public institution of higher education, the council of
25 faculty representatives, the united faculty of Washington state,
26 community and technical college faculty, and a community and technical
27 college student, to take the following actions related to
28 electronically distributed learning:

1 (a) Identify and evaluate current national private employer
2 workplace-based educational programs with electronically distributed
3 learning components provided by public colleges and universities. The
4 evaluation shall include:

5 (i) A review of the literature and interviews of practitioners
6 about promising practices and results;

7 (ii) An initial determination of feasibility based on targeted
8 populations served, subject matter, and level of education;

9 (iii) An overview of technological considerations and adult
10 learning strategies for distribution of learning to employer sites; and

11 (iv) An overview of cost factors, including shared costs or
12 coinvestments by public and private partners;

13 (b) Review and, to the extent necessary, establish standards and
14 best practices regarding electronically distributed learning and
15 related support services including online help desk support, advising,
16 mentoring, counseling, and tutoring;

17 (c) Recommend methods to increase student access to electronically
18 distributed learning programs of study and identify barriers to
19 programs of study participation and completion;

20 (d) Determine methods to increase the institutional supply and
21 quality of open course materials, with a focus on the OpenCourseWare
22 initiative at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology;

23 (e) Recommend methods to increase the availability and use of
24 digital open textbooks; and

25 (f) Review and report demographic information on electronically
26 distributed learning programs of study enrollments, retention, and
27 completions.

28 (2) The board shall work in cooperation with the state board for
29 community and technical colleges to report the preliminary results of
30 the studies to the appropriate committees of the legislature by
31 December 1, 2008, and a final report by December 1, 2009.

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

34 (1) To the extent funds are available for this purpose, the board
35 shall use a matching fund strategy to select and evaluate up to eight
36 pilot projects operated by Washington institutions of higher education.
37 By September 2008, the board shall select up to eight institutions of

1 higher education as defined in RCW 28B.92.030 including at least four
2 community or technical colleges to develop and offer a pilot project
3 providing employer workplace-based educational programs with distance
4 learning components. The board shall convene a task force that
5 includes representatives from the state board for community and
6 technical colleges and the higher education coordinating board to
7 select the participant institutions. At a minimum, the criteria for
8 selecting the educational institutions shall address:

9 (a) The ability to demonstrate a capacity to make a commitment of
10 resources to build and sustain a high quality program;

11 (b) The ability to readily engage faculty appropriately qualified
12 to develop and deliver a high quality curriculum;

13 (c) The ability to demonstrate demand for the proposed program from
14 a sufficient number of interested employees within its service area to
15 make the program cost-effective and feasible to operate; and

16 (d) The identification of employers that demonstrate a commitment
17 to host an on-site program. Employers shall demonstrate their
18 commitment to provide:

19 (i) Access to educational coursework and educational advice and
20 support for entry-level and semiskilled workers, including paid and
21 unpaid release time, and adequate classroom space that is equipped
22 appropriately for the selected technological distance learning
23 methodologies to be used;

24 (ii) On-site promotion and encouragement of worker participation,
25 including employee orientations, peer support and mentoring,
26 educational tutoring, and career planning;

27 (iii) Allowance of a reasonable level of worker choice in the type
28 and level of coursework available;

29 (iv) Commitment to work with college partner to ensure the
30 relevance of coursework to the skill demands and potential career
31 pathways of the employer host site and other participating employers;

32 (v) Willingness to participate in an evaluation of the pilot to
33 analyze the net benefit to the employer host site, other employer
34 partners, the worker-students, and the colleges; and

35 (vi) In firms with union representation, the mandatory
36 establishment of a labor-management committee to oversee design and
37 participation.

1 (2) Institutions of higher education may submit an application to
2 become a pilot college under this section. An institution of higher
3 education selected as a pilot college shall develop the curriculum for
4 and design and deliver courses. However, the programs developed under
5 this section are subject to approval by the state board for technical
6 and community colleges under RCW 28B.50.090 and by the higher education
7 coordinating board under RCW 28B.76.230.

8 (3) The board shall evaluate the pilot project and report the
9 outcomes to students and employers by December 1, 2012.

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

12 The board may receive and expend federal funds and private gifts or
13 grants, which funds must be expended in accordance with any conditions
14 upon which the funds are contingent.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 2 through 4 of this act expire
16 December 31, 2012."

17 Correct the title.

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