

SHB 1880 - S COMM AMD
By Committee on Higher Education

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the education
4 and skills of Washington's workforce is a major determinant of the
5 state's economic growth, and that finding regional solutions to the
6 state's workforce needs are of paramount concern. The legislature
7 further recognizes that different areas of the state will need the
8 flexibility to fashion local solutions to their economic and workforce
9 strengths and challenges, and that regional workforce systems may
10 evolve over time.

11 The legislature finds that while the workforce system in Washington
12 is operated by numerous entities, each with a critical role, it should
13 function as one interconnected and coordinated system. Workforce
14 development planning, at the regional level, should be coordinated with
15 regional strategic plans. Further, regional and state plans should be
16 coordinated to achieve both statewide and local workforce development
17 goals. To facilitate this coordination and cooperation among state and
18 local regions, the legislature declares it to be in the state's
19 interest to establish a coordinated planning program for regional
20 workforce development systems throughout the state.

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

23 (1) The legislature authorizes a program under which local
24 workforce development councils shall serve as the lead regional
25 workforce development planning organizations within their regions. In
26 this capacity, each local council shall:

27 (a) Convene the following entities that are located or provide
28 services within its region:

29 (i) Community and technical colleges;

- 1 (ii) Economic development councils;
- 2 (iii) The employment security department;
- 3 (iv) Small business development centers;
- 4 (v) Skill centers;
- 5 (vi) Public four-year institutions of higher education;
- 6 (vii) Private two and four-year postsecondary institutions;
- 7 (viii) Apprenticeship programs;
- 8 (ix) Secondary career and technical education programs; and
- 9 (x) Other public, private, and nonprofit workforce-related
- 10 entities;

11 (b) Adopt and periodically update a consensus skills-based economic
12 growth plan for the region. This plan shall clearly articulate the
13 connection between the industry sectors the community is targeting for
14 growth and the skills training programs that the community is targeting
15 for expansion. The plan shall include, but is not limited to:

16 (i) Data on current and projected employment opportunities in the
17 local area;

18 (ii) Identification of workforce investment needs of existing
19 businesses and businesses considering location in the region;

20 (iii) Identification of educational, training, employment, and
21 support service needs of jobseekers and workers in the local area;

22 (iv) Analysis of the industry demand, potential labor force supply,
23 and educational, employment, and workforce support available to
24 businesses and jobseekers in the region;

25 (v) Development of industry cluster-based strategies to support the
26 regional economy, facilitate technology transfer and diffusion, and
27 increase value-added production;

28 (vi) Identification of the needs of those clusters, including
29 determining what sources of programs and initiatives are needed to
30 attract, grow, retain, and support those industries;

31 (vii) Recommendations for the most efficient use of existing
32 workforce infrastructure and funding to maximize service to individuals
33 and industry; and

34 (viii) Creation of a financial plan demonstrating how the regional
35 workforce plan can be implemented, including all resources that are
36 reasonably expected to be made available to carry out the plan, and
37 recommending any techniques to leverage and increase available
38 resources and services to individual and industry customers.

1 (2) This section does not relieve workforce development councils of
2 any planning requirements that exist under federal law, that are not
3 included in this section.

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

6 (1) Workforce development councils may submit an application to
7 participate in the skills-based economic growth program under this
8 section. The board shall review the applications to ensure they meet
9 the criteria for the program.

10 (2) A workforce development council participating in the program
11 under this section shall convene other local workforce development
12 agencies and develop a skills-based economic growth plan for their
13 region that is supported by the local workforce development agencies.
14 The plan must be adopted within their region by November 30, 2008, and
15 approved by the board by February 15, 2009.

16 (3) A workforce development council participating in the program
17 under this section shall establish procedures to track and annually
18 report: The amount of new state and nonstate funding brought into the
19 community as a result of the skills-based economic growth planning
20 process; training capacity expansion achieved in programs targeted by
21 the plan; impact on local economic growth; and the impact on career
22 opportunities for local residents.

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

25 (1) Subject to funds appropriated for this specific purpose, the
26 board shall create the local skills-based economic growth planning
27 program. The board shall determine the criteria for the distribution
28 of funds for the program.

29 (2) The board may, in implementing this section, accept, use, and
30 dispose of contributions of money, services, and property. All moneys
31 received by the board for the purposes of this section must be
32 deposited in a depository approved by the state treasurer. Only the
33 board or a duly authorized representative thereof may authorize
34 expenditures from this account. In order to maintain an effective
35 expenditure and revenue control, the account is subject in all respects

1 to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required to permit
2 expenditure of moneys in the account.

3 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28C.18.010 and 1996 c 99 s 2 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
6 this section apply throughout this title.

7 (1) "Board" means the workforce training and education coordinating
8 board.

9 (2) "Director" means the director of the workforce training and
10 education coordinating board.

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

24 (4) "Workforce skills" means skills developed through applied
25 learning that strengthen and reinforce an individual's academic
26 knowledge, critical thinking, problem solving, and work ethic and,
27 thereby, develop the employability, occupational skills, and management
28 of home and work responsibilities necessary for economic independence.

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

1 skills necessary for economic independence as a productive and
2 contributing member of society. Such term also includes applied
3 technology education.

4 (6) "Adult basic education" means instruction designed to achieve
5 mastery of skills in reading, writing, oral communication, and
6 computation at a level sufficient to allow the individual to function
7 effectively as a parent, worker, and citizen in the United States,
8 commensurate with that individual's actual ability level, and includes
9 English as a second language and preparation and testing service for
10 the general education development exam.

11 (7) "Workforce development council" means workforce investment
12 board as established in Public Law 105-220 Sec. 117.

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

17 NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. A new section is added to chapter 28C.18 RCW
18 to read as follows:

19 (1) Subject to funding provided for the purposes of this section,
20 the board, in consultation with the state board for community and
21 technical colleges, the department of community, trade, and economic
22 development, and the employment security department, shall allocate
23 grants on a competitive basis to establish and support industry skill
24 panels.

25 (2) Eligible applicants for the grants allocated under this section
26 include, but are not limited to, workforce development councils,
27 community and technical colleges, economic development councils,
28 private career schools, chambers of commerce, trade associations, and
29 apprenticeship councils.

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

33 (4) It shall be the role of industry skill panels funded under this
34 chapter to enable businesses in the industry to address workforce skill
35 needs. Industry skill panels shall identify workforce strategies to
36 meet the needs in order to benefit employers and workers across the
37 industry. Examples of strategies include, but are not limited to:

1 Developing career guidance materials; producing or updating skill
2 standards and curricula; designing training programs and courses;
3 developing technical assessments and certifications; arranging employer
4 mentoring, tutoring, and internships; identifying private sector
5 assistance in providing faculty or equipment to training providers; and
6 organizing industry conferences disseminating best practices. The
7 products and services of particular skill panels shall depend upon the
8 needs of the industry.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18 RCW
10 to read as follows:

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

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23 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "Relating to" strike the
24 remainder of the title and insert "creating skills-based economic
25 growth programs; amending RCW 28C.18.010; adding new sections to
26 chapter 28C.18 RCW; and creating a new section."

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