

SSB 6295 - S AMD

By Senators Kilmer, Delvin, and Shin

ADOPTED 02/18/2008

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, the board
20 shall identify and evaluate current national private employer
21 workplace-based educational programs with distance learning components
22 provided by public colleges and universities. The evaluation shall
23 include:

24 (a) A review of the literature and direct surveys of practitioners
25 about promising practices and net impact analysis;

26 (b) An initial determination of feasibility based on targeted
27 populations served, subject matter, and level of education;

28 (c) An overview of technological considerations and adult learning
29 strategies for distribution of learning to employer sites; and

1 (d) An overview of cost factors, including shared costs or co-
2 investments by public and private partners.

3 (2) The board shall report the results of the study and evaluation
4 to appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2008.

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

7 (1) To the extent funds are available for this purpose, the board
8 shall use a matching fund strategy to select and evaluate up to eight
9 pilot projects operated by Washington institutions of higher education.
10 By September 2008, the board shall select up to eight institutions of
11 higher education as defined in RCW 28B.92.030 including at least four
12 community or technical colleges to develop and offer a pilot project
13 providing employer workplace-based educational programs with distance
14 learning components. The board shall convene a task force that
15 includes representatives from the state board for community and
16 technical colleges and the higher education coordinating board to
17 select the participant institutions. At a minimum, the criteria for
18 selecting the educational institutions shall address:

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

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

23 (c) The ability to demonstrate demand for the proposed program from
24 a sufficient number of students within its service area to make the
25 program cost-effective and feasible to operate; and

26 (d) The identification of available employers under subsection (3)
27 of this section that demonstrate willingness to host an on-site program
28 either because they demand the level of education proposed within the
29 program or because they expect to accrue benefits of improved worker
30 retention and productivity from employee engagement in higher
31 education.

32 (2) Institutions of higher education may submit an application to
33 become a pilot college under this section. An institution of higher
34 education selected as a pilot college shall develop the curriculum for
35 and design and deliver courses. However, the programs developed under
36 this section are subject to approval by the state board for technical

1 and community colleges under RCW 28B.50.090 and by the higher education
2 coordinating board under RCW 28B.76.230.

3 (3) By September 2008, the board, in cooperation with the state
4 board for community and technical colleges and the higher education
5 coordinating board, shall select employers with the ability to offer
6 employment and workplace-based educational programs with distance
7 learning components in cooperation with the institutions selected under
8 subsection (1) of this section. The selection criteria shall address:

9 (a) Access to educational coursework and educational advice and
10 support for entry-level and semi-skilled workers, including paid and
11 unpaid release time, and adequate classroom space that is equipped
12 appropriately for the selected technological distance learning
13 methodologies to be used;

14 (b) On-site promotion and encouragement of worker participation,
15 including employee orientations, peer support and mentoring,
16 educational tutoring, and career planning;

17 (c) Allowance of a reasonable level of worker choice in the type
18 and level of coursework available;

19 (d) Commitment to work with college partner to ensure the relevance
20 of coursework to the skill demands and potential career pathways of the
21 employer host site and other participating employers; and

22 (e) Willingness to participate in an evaluation of the pilot to
23 analyze the net benefit to the employer host site, other employer
24 partners, the worker-students, and the colleges.

25 (4) In firms with union representation, the establishment of a
26 labor-management committee to oversee design and participation shall be
27 mandatory.

28 (5) Joint applications from institutions of higher education and
29 private employers shall be encouraged.

30 (6) The board shall evaluate the pilot project and report the
31 outcomes to students and employers by December 1, 2012.

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

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

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

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3 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "learning;" strike the
4 remainder of the title and insert "adding new sections to chapter
5 28C.18 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date."

EFFECT: Private, accredited institutions of higher education may participate in the pilot project.

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