
Higher Education Committee

HB 1881

Brief Description: Implementing the Washington learns modifications.

Sponsors: Representatives Wallace, Moeller, Haigh, McDermott, Kagi, Roberts, O'Brien, Kenney, Hurst and Ormsby.

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Changes hiring and oversight of the executive director.

Hearing Date: 2/8/07

Staff: Jennifer Thornton (786-7111).

Background:

Washington Learns

Legislation enacted in 2005 created a comprehensive education and finance study covering early learning, K-12, and higher education. This effort, known as Washington Learns, was comprised of a steering committee chaired by the Governor and advisory committees for each education sector. The Washington Learns Final Report: *World-Class, Learner Focused, Seamless Education*, a culmination of the 18 month study, was completed in November 2006.

Higher Education Coordinating Board

In 1985, the Legislature sunset the Council on Postsecondary Education and created the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB). The board is composed of ten members representing the public, one of whom is a student. The members are appointed by the Governor, subject to Senate confirmation, and serve four-year terms, with the exception of the student member, whose term lasts one year.

The board has administrative responsibilities as well as policy- and research-oriented functions. Administrative duties include administering financial aid programs, authorizing institutions to offer degrees in the state and approving new degree programs offered at the baccalaureate level by public institutions. In policy planning and research, board responsibilities include development of a statewide strategic master plan for higher education and developing recommendations on policy

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and budgetary issues for consideration by the Governor and the Legislature. The board's purpose includes serving as an advocate for students and the overall system of higher education.

Summary of Bill:

Effective July 1, 2007, the Executive Director of the HECB will be appointed by the Governor from a list of three names submitted by the board. The Executive Director will serve at the pleasure of the Governor, instead of at the pleasure of the board.

The deadline for institutions, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, and the HECB to submit budget recommendations each advance one month.

The HECB's advisory council that is comprised of representatives of colleges and education-related agencies is repealed.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.