
Higher Education Committee

SSB 5855

Brief Description: Implementing the Washington learns modifications.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Senators Delvin, Shin, Berkey, Kilmer, Oemig and Rasmussen).

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Substitute Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Changes the hiring of the executive director, and specifies that the executive director shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

Hearing Date: 3/19/07

Staff: Jennifer Thornton (786-7111).

Background:

Washington Learns

Legislation enacted in 2005 created a comprehensive education and finance study covering early learning, Kindergarten-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 Post-secondary Education and created the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB). The HECB is composed of 10 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 HECB's functions include policy development, planning, and research for the higher education system. Their responsibilities include development of a statewide strategic master plan for higher education and the development of recommendations on policy and budgetary issues for consideration by the Governor and the Legislature.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

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 HECB. If requested by the Governor, additional names will be submitted for consideration. The Executive Director will serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

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

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and section 2 takes effect on July 1, 2007.