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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1129**

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**State of Washington**

**61st Legislature**

**2009 Regular Session**

**By** House Community & Economic Development & Trade (originally sponsored by Representatives Kenney, Pettigrew, Ericks, Lias, Hudgins, Rolfes, Sells, Hasegawa, O'Brien, Chase, Dunshee, Wallace, Ormsby, Sullivan, and Nelson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/09.

1 AN ACT Relating to lifelong learning accounts; adding a new section  
2 to chapter 28B.50 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28C.18 RCW; and  
3 creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Lifelong learning accounts are portable  
6 employee-owned and employer-matched savings accounts dedicated to  
7 covering the cost of tuition, fees, books, supplies, and equipment for  
8 working adults seeking education and training to improve their position  
9 in the workforce. The legislature finds that lifelong learning  
10 accounts allow employers and workers to coinvest in their futures. The  
11 legislature further finds that, combined with free career advising,  
12 lifelong learning accounts can make a significant difference in the  
13 lives of workers and their families, as well as for employers in need  
14 of well-trained workers. The legislature intends to facilitate the  
15 creating of lifelong learning accounts for workers in the state of  
16 Washington.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW  
18 to read as follows:

1 (1) The workforce training and education coordinating board shall  
2 establish a state lifelong learning account steering committee. The  
3 steering committee shall consist of representatives from the: (a)  
4 Association of Washington business; (b) higher education coordinating  
5 board; (c) state board for community and technical colleges; (d)  
6 department of community, trade, and economic development; (e)  
7 Washington state hospital association; (f) Pacific mountain workforce  
8 development council; (g) private vocational schools; and (h) state and  
9 regional AFL-CIO and SEIU.

10 (2) The steering committee shall: (a) Develop a policy framework  
11 to establish a statewide lifelong learning account program; (b)  
12 identify technical and budget issues along with recommendations on how  
13 to resolve them; (c) provide for continuing outreach to workers,  
14 employers, and foundations, willing to participate in and fund lifelong  
15 learning accounts; and (d) design a performance accountability system.

16 (3) The steering committee shall receive staff and logistical  
17 support from the workforce training and education coordinating board.

18 (4) The steering committee shall report to the appropriate  
19 committees of the legislature by September 1, 2010, and every two years  
20 thereafter, regarding the numbers and characteristics of participating  
21 workers and employers, the status of outreach efforts, and other  
22 appropriate performance outcome measures identified by the steering  
23 committee.

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

26 The board may receive gifts, grants, or endowments from public or  
27 private sources that are made from time to time, in trust or otherwise,  
28 for the use and benefit of the board in support of the lifelong  
29 learning account program, and may spend gifts, grants, or endowments or  
30 income from the public or private sources according to their terms,  
31 unless the receipt of the gifts, grants, or endowments violates RCW  
32 42.17.710.

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