
HOUSE BILL 1129

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Kenney, Pettigrew, Ericks, Liias, Hudgins, Rolfes, Sells, Hasegawa, O'Brien, Chase, Dunshee, Wallace, Ormsby, Sullivan, and Nelson

Read first time 01/14/09. Referred to Committee on Community & Economic Development & Trade.

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

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

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

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

18 (1) The workforce training and education coordinating board shall

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

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

14 (3) The steering committee shall receive staff and logistical
15 support from the workforce training and education coordinating board.
16 The workforce training and education coordinating board shall enter
17 into an interagency agreement with the higher education coordinating
18 board to provide technical expertise in the development of
19 infrastructure and software plans necessary for the lifelong learning
20 account program.

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

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