

HOUSE BILL REPORT

EHB 2159

As Passed House:
December 14, 2011

Title: An act relating to grant opportunities for high school aerospace assembler, skill center manufacturing, and high school project lead the way STEM career courses.

Brief Description: Regarding grant opportunities for STEM career courses.

Sponsors: Representatives Maxwell, Pettigrew, Sells, Seaquist, Orwall, Hansen, Probst, Carlyle, Jinkins, Billig, Lytton and Dahlquist; by request of Governor Gregoire.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Education: 12/13/11 [DP].

Second Special Session

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 12/14/11, 77-18.

Brief Summary of Engrossed Bill

- Establishes three competitive grant programs to be administered by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, each subject to funds appropriated for their purpose.
- Provides that one program is grants for high schools to prepare students for employment as entry-level aerospace assemblers, one is for skill centers to implement enhanced manufacturing skills programs, and one is for high schools to implement specialized courses in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
- Provides that the grants are one-time and may be used for curriculum, equipment and materials, and professional development for course teachers.
- Directs the Education Data Center to collect student participation and completion data, and to follow students to employment or further training in the two years following high school.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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.

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 15 members: Representatives Santos, Chair; Lytton, Vice Chair; Dammeier, Ranking Minority Member; Dahlquist, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Billig, Fagan, Haigh, Hargrove, Hunt, Klippert, Ladenburg, Maxwell, McCoy, Probst and Wilcox.

Minority Report: Without recommendation. Signed by 2 members: Representatives Ahern and Angel.

Staff: Barbara McLain (786-7383).

Background:

Workforce Education Centers of Excellence. The community and technical college system has designated certain colleges as Centers of Excellence for workforce education in particular targeted industries that are strategic to the economic growth of a region or the state. Each Center of Excellence works with employers in the targeted industry, other colleges, career and technical education (CTE) programs in regional high schools and skill centers, and labor representatives to develop curriculum and training programs and promote best practices in education and training to support the targeted industry.

One example is the Center of Excellence for Aerospace and Advanced Materials Manufacturing (Center for Aerospace) located at Everett Community College. The Center for Aerospace has been working with other colleges to align courses in aerospace and manufacturing to skills required for entry-level jobs, and has worked with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to develop secondary CTE programs that allow students to begin a progression of courses in high school, continue seamlessly in college, and complete an industry-recognized certificate or degree in advanced manufacturing. This type of course progression is called a program of study.

The Washington Aerospace Training and Research Center, affiliated with the Edmonds Community College, has collaborated with The Boeing Company to develop a 12-week training and certification program for entry-level jobs in aerospace assembly.

Project Lead-the-Way. Project Lead-the-Way (PLTW) is a national curriculum in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) for middle and high school students. Students learn principles of STEM through hands-on, project based learning. The curriculum includes modeling software, engineering kits, and other activities. For high school students, the Pathway to Engineering curriculum includes foundation courses, specialized courses, and a capstone course. The specialized courses also offer end-of-course assessments. Some colleges and universities offer college credit for the PLTW courses.

To teach a PLTW course, a teacher must receive two weeks of intensive training by an approved PLTW affiliate university. Ongoing inservice and supplemental professional development opportunities are also available.

Education Data Center. The Education Data Center (EDC) is housed within the Office of Financial Management and acts as a data warehouse with the capacity to link data across the K-12, postsecondary, and workforce systems. This capacity enables the EDC to examine

postsecondary and workforce outcomes for K-12 students, including those in particular high schools or programs.

Summary of Engrossed Bill:

Three grant programs are established to be administered by the OSPI, with each grant subject to funds appropriated for their purpose. The first program is grants to high schools to implement a training program to prepare students for employment as entry-level aerospace assemblers. The second program is grants to skill centers to implement enhanced manufacturing skills programs. The third program is grants to high schools to implement specialized courses as provided by a national, multidisciplinary STEM program.

All grant funds are allocated on a one-time basis through a competitive process and may be used for curriculum, course equipment and materials, and professional development for program teachers. In the case of the aerospace assembler program and the enhanced manufacturing skills program, the OSPI must work with the Center for Aerospace to develop a program of study that meets industry needs.

Applicants for the grants must demonstrate:

- engaged and committed faculty and leadership;
- capacity to offer the program and maximize the use of grant resources;
- linkages to programs at community and technical colleges and private technical schools;
- a history of successful partnerships within the community and support for implementing the program including through apprenticeships, materials, instructional support, internships, and other program components;
- a plan that includes a start-date for classes and recruitment and retention of students; and
- capacity to continue the program after the initial grant year.

Applicants for the grants to offer specialized STEM courses must also demonstrate current or planned training of course teachers and a plan to promote opportunities for students to earn college credit.

The EDC must collect student participation and completion data for each of the three grant programs and follow students to employment or further training and education in the two years following high school. For the students in specialized STEM courses, the EDC must also examine mathematics and science course-taking patterns to determine the extent that participation reduces mathematics remediation. Study findings must be reported annually beginning January 2014 through January 2018.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) This is important legislation to support our state's economy. Children deserve high quality aerospace and manufacturing jobs and we need to make sure they are ready for these jobs. The Education Committee had an opportunity to visit schools doing the PLTW program and it was exciting to see the enthusiasm and commitment of the principal, teachers, and students. This bill is part of a package that builds on very good collaboration between the OSPI and the community college system. There is a renewed emphasis on students earning stackable certificates that enable them to progress in their learning without redundancy. The competitive nature of the grants will ensure that high schools and skill centers have strong partnerships with local businesses.

This bill is part of Superintendent Dorn's budget request and strategic plan. It is exciting to think about what these grants would allow in terms of building a pipeline for students to enter manufacturing and aerospace fields. The work between schools, colleges, and industry to identify competencies and align education with entry-level employment represents a different focus of collaboration. Skill centers are perfectly poised to offer advanced manufacturing skills programs. The employment opportunities for graduates are incredible.

The K-12 system should prepare students for choices, including immediate entry into family-wage jobs, attendance at community and technical colleges, and entrance into a university. This bill lays out a pathway for these choices. There is clearly a need in this state to provide these stackable certificates that provide students with meaningful and relevant options. Preparing the workforce of the future is the key to the future of the aerospace industry in our state. This will make us more competitive and assure that our own children have high quality employment opportunities. This creates pathways to family-wage jobs across the state and across industries.

This has the chance to impact the dropout rate because students who get engaged in a program that they see the relevance of are more likely to stay in school. Finding ways to get students interested and qualified in STEM fields will have an immediate impact on our economy. These type of programs offer direct entry into the workforce. The idea of having data collection and follow-up is a good one because it will allow us to measure which programs are effective.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Representative Maxwell, prime sponsor; Judy Hartmann, Governor's Executive Policy Office; Kathleen Lopp and Dennis Milliken, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction; Jay Leviton, Renton School District; Lucinda Young, Washington Education Association; Brooke Valentine, League of Education Voters; Genesee Adkins, King County Aerospace Alliance; Jerry Bender, Association of Washington School Principals; Wes Pruitt, Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board; Bill McSherry, The Boeing Company; Charlie Brown, Pierce County Skills Center; and Ramona Hattendorf, Washington State Parent Teacher Association.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.