

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5974

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As of December 10, 2011

**Title:** An act relating to demonstrating college level skills.

**Brief Description:** Including project lead-the-way examinations on the master list of postsecondary courses fulfilled by proficiency examinations.

**Sponsors:** Senators Tom, Litzow, Kilmer, Fain, Hewitt, Chase and Kohl-Welles; by request of Governor Gregoire.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Ways & Means: 12/12/11.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**Staff:** Maria Hovde (786-7710)

**Background:** Postsecondary Course Credit in High School. There are a variety of education programs that allow high school students to earn postsecondary course credit while also earning credit toward high school graduation, including:

- Running Start, which allows students to take courses on college campuses that count toward both high school and college graduation;
- College in the High School, which permits students to complete college level work while staying on their high school campuses;
- Tech Prep, which allows students to take professional technical courses on their high school campuses;
- Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Programs, which allow students to take college level courses while staying on their high school campuses with the requirement that students must pass a standardized examination in order to obtain college credit; and
- Running Start for the Trades, which prepares students to enter apprenticeships immediately after high school graduation.

The institutions of higher education are required to collaboratively develop a master list of postsecondary courses that can be fulfilled by taking the advanced placement, international baccalaureate, or other recognized college-level proficiency exams and meeting the qualifying examination score or demonstrated competencies for lower division general education requirements or postsecondary professional technical requirements.

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*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.*

Project Lead the Way. Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is a national organization that provides science, technology, engineering, and mathematics curricular programs for middle and high schools in the United States, as well as a professional development component for teachers. The curricula are developed to enhance student learning by providing a hands-on, problem-solving approach.

In Washington State, there are currently 7150 students served with PLTW engineering programs at 44 middle schools and 63 high schools and PLTW biomedical science programs at 18 high schools. Training for teachers is provided by Seattle University and Washington State University-Spokane.

**Summary of Bill:** Includes PLTW examinations in the list of college level proficiency exams that are recognized as a method for fulfilling postsecondary courses.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.