

FINAL BILL REPORT

ESB 6141

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Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Creating a lifelong learning program.

Sponsors: Senators Kilmer, Tom, Shin, Kastama, Ericksen, Chase and Frockt.

Senate Committee on Economic Development, Trade & Innovation
House Committee on Labor & Workforce Development

Background: Lifelong Learning Accounts (LiLAs) are employee-owned educational savings accounts that help pay for education and training expenses. When a LiLA is set up, regular contributions by employees are matched by the employer. LiLAs can supplement an employer's existing tuition assistance program or serve as an education benefit for employers who are not able to offer a tuition assistance program.

The Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL), a national nonprofit organization, developed the concept and model for LiLAs as a way to help working adults gain greater access to education and training throughout their work lives. CAEL conducted several regional demonstration pilots and assisted in the establishment of a pilot program in Washington in 2008.

Summary: The Lifelong Learning Program (Program) is established at the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Board) to allow employees to create LiLAs. The Program is voluntary for employers and employees. The Board may partner with financial institutions and nonprofits to develop operating procedures, ensure adequate marketing, and coordinate career counseling services.

The Board may work with financial institutions to encourage their full engagement in activities, such as management of accounts and the provision of financial literacy training, that make the Program successful. The Board may also develop Program policies and system options.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	36	11
House	55	41

Effective: June 7, 2012

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