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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2717**

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**State of Washington**

**62nd Legislature**

**2012 Regular Session**

**By** House Higher Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Seaquist and Pollet)

READ FIRST TIME 01/31/12.

1       AN ACT Relating to creating innovations in higher education; and  
2       creating new sections.

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

4       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that: (a) Longer-  
5       term economic trends, accelerated by the recession, are changing and  
6       enlarging the public's requirements for higher education; (b) the  
7       future of state's citizens and businesses requires a radical increase  
8       in high quality educational attainment; and (c) an increasing  
9       proportion of jobs require baccalaureate degrees while prospects are  
10      minimal for those with only a high school diploma or less.

11      (2) The legislature also finds that in addition to a general  
12      requirement to rapidly increase educational attainment at all levels,  
13      innovative approaches are needed to meet the educational needs of two  
14      particular groups of citizens: (a) To retain or increase their earning  
15      power, large numbers of workers need to meet the economy's growing  
16      demands for baccalaureate-level skills, which may need to be frequently  
17      refreshed by additional baccalaureate-level study and training; and (b)  
18      large numbers of underskilled, under and unemployed persons need a

1 practical, affordable path to gaining the entry-level academic skills  
2 prerequisite for college and university education and training.

3 (3) Recognizing innovations by several of the state's baccalaureate  
4 universities and community and technical colleges to address these  
5 emerging needs, the legislature intends to launch two pilot projects.  
6 The legislature intends that one project, to be led by baccalaureate  
7 institutions, will design and demonstrate innovative approaches to  
8 baccalaureate-level instruction able to meet the needs of workers and  
9 businesses in the growth sectors of the state's economy. The  
10 legislature intends that another project, to be led by community and  
11 technical college institutions, will design and demonstrate innovative  
12 approaches to meeting the remedial and developmental education needs of  
13 potential workers to prepare to be successful higher education  
14 students.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Working with the higher education  
16 coordinating board or successor agency, the state board for community  
17 and technical colleges, faculty, students, business, and other partners  
18 as may be appropriate, the four-year institutions of higher education  
19 are encouraged to work together in order to design innovative  
20 approaches to greatly increase the number of resident students working  
21 toward and gaining baccalaureate degrees or further updating or  
22 advancing their academic credentials. The four-year institutions of  
23 higher education shall submit to the governor and the higher education  
24 and education fiscal committees of the legislature an interim report by  
25 August 1, 2012, and a final report and proposals for implementation by  
26 December 1, 2012. The four-year institutions of higher education must  
27 include in the interim report a survey of relevant innovations by any  
28 of the institutions and propose a comprehensive plan for implementing  
29 further, system-wide innovations designed to rapidly and substantially  
30 increase baccalaureate-level educational attainment by Washington  
31 residents employed or seeking employment in the high growth sectors of  
32 the state's economy.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Working with the higher education  
34 coordinating board or successor agency, faculty, students, business,  
35 and other agencies and partners as may be appropriate, the state board  
36 for community and technical colleges is encouraged to charter a

1 consortium of volunteer community and technical colleges to design  
2 innovative approaches to rapidly and substantially increase the cost-  
3 effective delivery of developmental and remedial education. Wherever  
4 possible those innovations are to be tested in immediate pilot  
5 projects. The state board for community and technical colleges shall  
6 submit to the governor and the higher education and education fiscal  
7 committees of the legislature an interim report by August 1, 2012, and  
8 a final report and proposals for implementation by December 1, 2012.  
9 The state board for community and technical colleges must include in  
10 the interim report a survey of relevant innovations by any of the  
11 colleges and propose a comprehensive plan for implementing further,  
12 system-wide innovations designed to rapidly and substantially increase  
13 the cost-effectiveness of remedial and developmental education  
14 instruction for the full range of students seeking access to college  
15 and university education.

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