
SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2717

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By House Education Appropriations & Oversight (originally sponsored by Representatives Seaquist and Pollet)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/12.

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. The final report shall propose a comprehensive
29 plan for implementing further, system-wide innovations designed to
30 rapidly and substantially increase baccalaureate-level educational
31 attainment by Washington residents employed or seeking employment in
32 the high growth sectors of the state's economy. The four-year
33 institutions of higher education are encouraged to include in the final
34 report innovative methods for enabling students to gain credit for
35 prior learning including recognition of coursework and academic
36 credentials obtained by students in other states, other countries, or

1 the military; and innovative programs, such as bridge programs, that
2 reduce duplication of coursework and decrease time to completion of
3 their degree or credential.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Working with the higher education
5 coordinating board or successor agency, faculty, students, business,
6 and other agencies and partners as may be appropriate, the state board
7 for community and technical colleges is encouraged to charter a
8 consortium of volunteer community and technical colleges to design
9 innovative approaches to rapidly and substantially increase the cost-
10 effective delivery of developmental and remedial education. Wherever
11 possible those innovations are to be tested in immediate pilot
12 projects. The state board for community and technical colleges shall
13 submit to the governor and the higher education and education fiscal
14 committees of the legislature an interim report by August 1, 2012, and
15 a final report and proposals for implementation by December 1, 2012,
16 with the final efficiency study report in RCW 28B.50.216. The state
17 board for community and technical colleges must include in the interim
18 report a survey of relevant innovations by any of the colleges. The
19 final report shall propose a comprehensive plan for implementing
20 further, system-wide innovations designed to rapidly and substantially
21 increase the cost-effectiveness of remedial and developmental education
22 instruction for the full range of students seeking access to college
23 and university education. The state board for community and technical
24 colleges is encouraged to include in the final report innovative
25 methods for enabling students to gain credit for prior learning
26 including recognition of coursework and academic credentials obtained
27 by students in other states, other countries, or the military; and
28 innovative programs, such as bridge programs, that reduce duplication
29 of coursework and decrease time to completion of their degree or
30 credential.

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