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HOUSE BILL 2717

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State of Washington                      62nd Legislature                      2012 Regular Session

By Representatives Seaquist and Pollet

Read first time 01/26/12. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

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

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

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

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