
SENATE BILL 6541

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Senator Chase

Read first time 01/30/12. Referred to Committee on Economic Development, Trade & Innovation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the use of workforce investment funds for layoff
2 aversion; amending RCW 28C.18.060; and adding a new section to chapter
3 50.60 RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28C.18.060 and 2009 c 151 s 6 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 The board, in cooperation with the operating agencies of the state
8 training system and private career schools and colleges, shall:

9 (1) Concentrate its major efforts on planning, coordination
10 evaluation, policy analysis, and recommending improvements to the
11 state's training system;

12 (2) Advocate for the state training system and for meeting the
13 needs of employers and the workforce for workforce education and
14 training;

15 (3) Establish and maintain an inventory of the programs of the
16 state training system, and related state programs, and perform a
17 biennial assessment of the vocational education, training, and adult
18 basic education and literacy needs of the state; identify ongoing and
19 strategic education needs; and assess the extent to which employment,

1 training, vocational and basic education, rehabilitation services, and
2 public assistance services represent a consistent, integrated approach
3 to meet such needs;

4 (4) Develop and maintain a state comprehensive plan for workforce
5 training and education, including but not limited to, goals,
6 objectives, and priorities for the state training system, and review
7 the state training system for consistency with the state comprehensive
8 plan. In developing the state comprehensive plan for workforce
9 training and education, the board shall use, but shall not be limited
10 to: Economic, labor market, and populations trends reports in office
11 of financial management forecasts; joint office of financial management
12 and employment security department labor force, industry employment,
13 and occupational forecasts; the results of scientifically based
14 outcome, net-impact and cost-benefit evaluations; the needs of
15 employers as evidenced in formal employer surveys and other employer
16 input; and the needs of program participants and workers as evidenced
17 in formal surveys and other input from program participants and the
18 labor community;

19 (5) In consultation with the higher education coordinating board,
20 review and make recommendations to the office of financial management
21 and the legislature on operating and capital facilities budget requests
22 for operating agencies of the state training system for purposes of
23 consistency with the state comprehensive plan for workforce training
24 and education;

25 (6) Provide for coordination among the different operating agencies
26 and components of the state training system at the state level and at
27 the regional level;

28 (7) Develop a consistent and reliable database on vocational
29 education enrollments, costs, program activities, and job placements
30 from publicly funded vocational education programs in this state;

31 (8)(a) Establish standards for data collection and maintenance for
32 the operating agencies of the state training system in a format that is
33 accessible to use by the board. The board shall require a minimum of
34 common core data to be collected by each operating agency of the state
35 training system;

36 (b) Develop requirements for minimum common core data in
37 consultation with the office of financial management and the operating
38 agencies of the training system;

1 (9) Establish minimum standards for program evaluation for the
2 operating agencies of the state training system, including, but not
3 limited to, the use of common survey instruments and procedures for
4 measuring perceptions of program participants and employers of program
5 participants, and monitor such program evaluation;

6 (10) Every two years administer scientifically based outcome
7 evaluations of the state training system, including, but not limited
8 to, surveys of program participants, surveys of employers of program
9 participants, and matches with employment security department payroll
10 and wage files. Every five years administer scientifically based net-
11 impact and cost-benefit evaluations of the state training system;

12 (11) In cooperation with the employment security department,
13 provide for the improvement and maintenance of quality and utility in
14 occupational information and forecasts for use in training system
15 planning and evaluation. Improvements shall include, but not be
16 limited to, development of state-based occupational change factors
17 involving input by employers and employees, and delineation of skill
18 and training requirements by education level associated with current
19 and forecasted occupations;

20 (12) Provide for the development of common course description
21 formats, common reporting requirements, and common definitions for
22 operating agencies of the training system;

23 (13) Provide for effectiveness and efficiency reviews of the state
24 training system;

25 (14) In cooperation with the higher education coordinating board,
26 facilitate transfer of credit policies and agreements between
27 institutions of the state training system, and encourage articulation
28 agreements for programs encompassing two years of secondary workforce
29 education and two years of postsecondary workforce education;

30 (15) In cooperation with the higher education coordinating board,
31 facilitate transfer of credit policies and agreements between private
32 training institutions and institutions of the state training system;

33 (16)(a) Develop policy objectives for the workforce investment act,
34 P.L. 105-220, or its successor. The board must evaluate the use of
35 workforce investment act funds for layoff aversion through rapid
36 response and other mechanisms and collaborate with the employment
37 security department in determining the best practices in the use of the
38 funds for such purposes;

1 **(b)** Develop coordination criteria for activities under the
2 workforce investment act with related programs and services provided by
3 state and local education and training agencies; and

4 **(c)** Ensure that entrepreneurial training opportunities are
5 available through programs of each local workforce investment board in
6 the state;

7 (17) Make recommendations to the commission of student assessment,
8 the state board of education, and the superintendent of public
9 instruction, concerning basic skill competencies and essential core
10 competencies for K-12 education. Basic skills for this purpose shall
11 be reading, writing, computation, speaking, and critical thinking,
12 essential core competencies for this purpose shall be English, math,
13 science/technology, history, geography, and critical thinking. The
14 board shall monitor the development of and provide advice concerning
15 secondary curriculum which integrates vocational and academic
16 education;

17 (18) Establish and administer programs for marketing and outreach
18 to businesses and potential program participants;

19 (19) Facilitate the location of support services, including but not
20 limited to, child care, financial aid, career counseling, and job
21 placement services, for students and trainees at institutions in the
22 state training system, and advocate for support services for trainees
23 and students in the state training system;

24 (20) Facilitate private sector assistance for the state training
25 system, including but not limited to: Financial assistance, rotation
26 of private and public personnel, and vocational counseling;

27 (21) Facilitate the development of programs for school-to-work
28 transition that combine classroom education and on-the-job training,
29 including entrepreneurial education and training, in industries and
30 occupations without a significant number of apprenticeship programs;

31 (22) Include in the planning requirements for local workforce
32 investment boards a requirement that the local workforce investment
33 boards specify how entrepreneurial training is to be offered through
34 the one-stop system required under the workforce investment act, P.L.
35 105-220, or its successor;

36 (23) Encourage and assess progress for the equitable representation
37 of racial and ethnic minorities, women, and people with disabilities
38 among the students, teachers, and administrators of the state training

1 system. Equitable, for this purpose, shall mean substantially
2 proportional to their percentage of the state population in the
3 geographic area served. This function of the board shall in no way
4 lessen more stringent state or federal requirements for representation
5 of racial and ethnic minorities, women, and people with disabilities;

6 (24) Participate in the planning and policy development of governor
7 set-aside grants under P.L. 97-300, as amended;

8 (25) Administer veterans' programs, licensure of private vocational
9 schools, the job skills program, and the Washington award for
10 vocational excellence;

11 (26) Allocate funding from the state job training trust fund;

12 (27) Work with the director of (~~community, trade, and economic~~
13 ~~development~~) the department of commerce and executive director of the
14 economic development commission to ensure coordination among workforce
15 training priorities, the long-term economic development strategy of the
16 economic development commission, and economic development and
17 entrepreneurial development efforts, including but not limited to
18 assistance to industry clusters;

19 (28) Conduct research into workforce development programs designed
20 to reduce the high unemployment rate among young people between
21 approximately eighteen and twenty-four years of age. In consultation
22 with the operating agencies, the board shall advise the governor and
23 legislature on policies and programs to alleviate the high unemployment
24 rate among young people. The research shall include disaggregated
25 demographic information and, to the extent possible, income data for
26 adult youth. The research shall also include a comparison of the
27 effectiveness of programs examined as a part of the research conducted
28 in this subsection in relation to the public investment made in these
29 programs in reducing unemployment of young adults. The board shall
30 report to the appropriate committees of the legislature by November 15,
31 2008, and every two years thereafter. Where possible, the data
32 reported to the legislative committees should be reported in numbers
33 and in percentages;

34 (29) Adopt rules as necessary to implement this chapter.

35 The board may delegate to the director any of the functions of this
36 section.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 50.60 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 The employment security department must detail for local workforce
4 development councils the opportunities to use, and the best practices
5 in the use of, workforce investment act funds for layoff aversion
6 through rapid response and other mechanisms.

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