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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1823**

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**State of Washington                      63rd Legislature                      2013 Regular Session**

**By** House Labor & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Representatives Sells, Tarleton, Seaquist, Maxwell, Smith, Bergquist, Fey, and Santos)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/13.

1            AN ACT Relating to centers of excellence; and amending RCW  
2 28B.50.902.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.50.902 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 14 s 6 are each  
5 amended to read as follows:

6            (1) The college board, in consultation with business, industry,  
7 labor, the workforce training and education coordinating board, the  
8 department of commerce, the employment security department, the council  
9 of presidents, and (~~community and technical colleges~~) institutions of  
10 higher education, shall designate centers of excellence and allocate  
11 funds to existing and new centers of excellence (~~based~~) on a  
12 competitive basis.

13            (2) Eligible applicants for the program established under this  
14 section include community and technical colleges. Priority shall be  
15 given to applicants that have an established education and training  
16 program serving the targeted industry, have networked effectively with  
17 both secondary and baccalaureate institutions on developing a talent  
18 pipeline for the targeted industry, and that have in their home

1 district or region an industry cluster with the same targeted industry  
2 at its core.

3 (3) It is the role of centers of excellence to (~~employ~~  
4 ~~strategies~~) be central sources of information regarding education and  
5 training services available to meet the needs of strategic industry  
6 sectors and enhance the careers of students in these sectors, and to be  
7 a communication conduit to Washington's education system about industry  
8 trends, in order to:

9 (a) Build a diverse, competitive workforce for strategic  
10 industries;

11 (b) Serve as one-stop sources of information for employers  
12 regarding education and training programs that prepare workers for  
13 strategic industries;

14 (c) Serve as an information entry point for prospective students  
15 and job seekers regarding education, training, and employment in  
16 strategic industries;

17 (d) Engage employer and labor representatives from strategic  
18 industries in identifying industry needs for a skilled and educated  
19 workforce and student needs for sustainable career growth, and in  
20 developing and implementing action plans that address those needs;

21 (e) Create educational efficiencies;

22 (~~(b)~~) ~~Build a diverse, competitive workforce for strategic~~  
23 ~~industries;~~

24 (~~(e)~~) (f) Maintain an institutional reputation for innovation and  
25 responsiveness;

26 (~~(d)~~) (g) Develop innovative curriculum and means of delivering  
27 education and training;

28 (~~(e)~~) (h) Identify industry skill standards and industry-based  
29 certifications;

30 (i) Facilitate the creation of model programs of study that are  
31 secondary and postsecondary sequences of education and training that  
32 prepare students for careers in strategic industries;

33 (j) Act as brokers of information and resources related to  
34 (~~community and technical college~~) education and training and  
35 assistance available for firms in a targeted industry, including  
36 working with (~~innovate Washington to develop methods to identify~~  
37 businesses within a targeted industry that could benefit from the

1 ~~services offered by innovate Washington under chapter 43.333 RCW))~~ K-12  
2 schools, colleges and universities, and apprenticeship programs; and  
3 ~~((f))~~ (k) Serve as partners with workforce development councils,  
4 associate development organizations, and other workforce and economic  
5 development organizations; and coordinate with industry assistance  
6 organizations including impact Washington and innovate Washington in  
7 order to connect businesses within the targeted industries to business  
8 services.

9 (4) Examples of strategies under subsection (3) of this section  
10 include but are not limited to: Sharing curriculum and other  
11 instructional resources, to ensure cost savings to the system;  
12 delivering collaborative certificate and degree programs; ~~((and))~~  
13 holding statewide summits, seminars, conferences, and workshops on  
14 industry trends and best practices in ~~((community and technical~~  
15 ~~college))~~ education and training; and coordinating industry-based  
16 certifications.

17 (5) The centers of excellence shall seek federal funds and private  
18 gifts and grants to supplement state resources for the purpose of  
19 performing the strategies identified in subsections (3) and (4) of this  
20 section.

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