

SENATE BILL REPORT

SSB 5928

As Passed Senate, March 29, 2016

Title: An act relating to education.

Brief Description: Authorizing Bellevue college to offer bachelor of science degrees in computer science.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senator Dammeier).

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Ways & Means: 3/03/16 [DPS, DNP, w/oRec].

First Special Session: Passed Senate: 3/29/16, 42-3.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5928 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Braun, Vice Chair; Dammeier, Vice Chair; Honeyford, Vice Chair, Capital Budget Chair; Ranker, Ranking Minority Member, Operating; Bailey, Billig, Brown, Darneille, Hewitt, Nelson, O'Ban, Parlette, Pedersen, Schoesler and Warnick.

Minority Report: Do not pass.

Signed by Senators Hargrove, Ranking Member; Keiser, Assistant Ranking Member on the Capital Budget; Conway, Hasegawa and Rolfes.

Minority Report: That it be referred without recommendation.

Signed by Senator Padden.

Staff: Michele Alishahi (786-7433)

Background: In 2005, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) was given authority to select four community or technical colleges to develop and offer programs of study leading to applied baccalaureate degrees on a pilot basis. An applied baccalaureate degree is a baccalaureate degree awarded by a community or technical college which expands on the curriculum from an associate of applied science degree, or its equivalent, and incorporates both theoretical and applied knowledge and skills in a specific technical field. In 2010, the pilot status and limitation on the number of colleges was removed. In order for a college to offer an applied baccalaureate degree, the college must receive approval from the SBCTC by demonstrating:

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- resource capacity;
- that the college has the appropriate faculty;
- that there is student and employer demand; and
- that the program would fulfill a gap in options available for students because the program is not offered by a public four-year institution of higher education in the college's geographic area.

All programs must be approved by the SBCTC. The community and technical colleges do not have authority to offer bachelor degrees.

In 2014-15, there were 15 colleges offering applied baccalaureate degrees, and 1037 students enrolled in applied baccalaureate degree programs in the community and technical college system.

Summary of Substitute Bill: Bellevue College is authorized to offer bachelor of science degrees in computer science. Bellevue College may develop the curriculum for and design and deliver courses leading to these bachelor degrees. The Bellevue bachelor degree program must be approved by the SBCTC before enrolling students in upper-division courses.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: None.

Persons Testifying: No one.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.