

FINAL BILL REPORT

E2SHB 1504

C 170 L 21
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Modifying the workforce education investment act.

Sponsors: House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Chopp, Simmons, Berry, Davis, Valdez, Wylie, Johnson, J., Ryu, Tharinger, Taylor, Goodman, Bergquist, Ramel, Peterson, Senn, Dolan, Ormsby, Duerr, Macri, Kloba, Callan, Morgan, Stonier, Pollet, Riccelli and Thai).

House Committee on College & Workforce Development
House Committee on Appropriations
Senate Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Background:

Workforce Education Investment Account.

The Workforce Education Investment Account (WEIA) was established in 2019 for higher education purposes. The WEIA is funded from two business and occupation (B&O) tax sources. First, 14.3 percent of the revenue collected from the 1.75 percent B&O tax rate on businesses earning more than \$1 million annually that conduct services and activities not classified elsewhere is deposited in WEIA. Second, the additional 1.22 percent surcharge on advanced computing businesses with a worldwide gross income in excess of \$25 billion is also deposited in WEIA. The WEIA may only be used for higher education programs, higher education operations, higher education compensation, and state-funded student aid programs.

Community Behavioral Health.

The Health Care Authority (HCA) is the state behavioral health authority and manages the community behavioral health system for clients enrolled in the Medicaid program, called Apple Health in Washington. Community mental health agencies often serve as training sites for professionals seeking supervision hours to meet licensure requirements. A credentialed individual seeking one or more of the common behavioral health related

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

licenses in Washington must complete anywhere from 1,500 to 4,000 hours of supervised practice. These individuals must also find an appropriately credentialed and licensed professional who is willing to be their supervisor over this period of time.

Agency Affiliated Counselors.

Agency affiliated counselors are individuals, practitioners, therapists, or analysts employed by a state or county agency or a federally recognized Indian tribe in Washington who engage in the practice of counseling for a fee.

Washington Health Corps.

The Washington Health Corps consists of the Health Professional Loan Repayment and the Behavioral Health Loan Repayment programs. The programs provide licensed professionals with student loan repayment if the professional agrees to serve in an underserved area with an identified shortage. The programs provide up to \$75,000 in loan repayment for a minimum three-year service obligation.

Washington State Opportunity Scholarship.

The Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (WSOS) is a public-private match program in which the state matches any private donations to fund scholarships in high-demand fields. The WSOS has three scholarship programs: Career and Technical Education; Baccalaureate; and Graduate. The Graduate Scholarship Program will begin accepting applications for the 2021-22 academic year for students pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice or a Master of Science in Nursing degree. The Graduate Scholarship Program's state match is capped at \$1 million per biennium.

Summary:

Workforce Education Investment Account.

Workforce education, including career connected learning, is added as an allowable use for the Workforce Education Investment Account.

Behavioral Health Workforce Pilot Program and Training Support Grants.

The HCA must establish a behavioral health workforce pilot program and training support grants for community mental health and substance use disorder treatment providers. The HCA must implement the pilot program and training support grants in partnership with and through the Accountable Communities of Health or the University of Washington Behavioral Health Institute.

The pilot program's purpose is to provide incentive pay for individuals serving as clinical supervisors within community behavioral health agencies, state hospitals, and facilities operated by the Department of Social and Health Services. The HCA must ensure the pilot program covers three sites serving primarily Medicaid clients in both eastern and western Washington. Of those three sites, one must specialize in the delivery of behavioral health services for Medicaid enrolled children and one must offer substance use disorder treatment

services. The HCA must report to the Legislature and the Office of Financial Management by September 30, 2023, on the pilot program's outcomes. The report must include:

- a description of the mechanism for incentivizing supervisor pay and other strategies used at each of the sites;
- the number of supervisors that received bonus pay at each site;
- the number of students or prelicensure clinicians that received supervision at each site;
- the number of supervision hours provided at each site;
- initial reporting on the number of students or prelicensure clinicians who received supervision through the pilot programs that moved into a permanent position with the pilot program or another community behavioral health program in Washington at the end of their supervision;
- identification of options for establishing enhanced supervisor pay through managed care organization payments to behavioral health providers; and
- recommendations for individual site policy and practice implications for statewide implementation.

In addition to the pilot program, the HCA must establish a grant program for mental health and substance use disorder providers that provides flexible funding for training and mentoring clinicians who serve children and youth. The HCA must consult with stakeholders, including behavioral health experts in services for children, youth, providers, and consumers, to develop guidelines for how the funding could be used. These uses must focus on evidence-based and promising practices, continuing education requirements, and quality monitoring infrastructure.

Agency Affiliated Counselors.

The definition of "agency affiliated counselor" is expanded to include interns who are supervised by agency staff.

Washington Health Corps.

The Office of Student Financial Assistance under the Washington Student Achievement Council and the Department of Health are to prioritize a portion of nonfederal funding in the Health Professional Loan Repayment program for applications that reflect demographically underrepresented populations.

Washington State Opportunity Scholarship.

The cap limiting state match dollars for the WSOS Graduate Scholarship Program is increased to \$5 million per biennium.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	62	34	
Senate	31	18	(Senate amended)
House	60	37	(House concurred)

Effective: July 25, 2021