

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## ESHB 2441

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As Reported by Senate Committee On:  
Higher Education & Workforce Development, February 21, 2024  
Ways & Means, February 26, 2024

**Title:** An act relating to a pilot program eliminating college in the high school fees for private not-for-profit four-year institutions.

**Brief Description:** Establishing a pilot program eliminating college in the high school fees for private not-for-profit four-year institutions.

**Sponsors:** House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Corry, Slatter, Stokesbary, Leavitt and Jacobsen).

**Brief History:** Passed House: 2/12/24, 97-0.

**Committee Activity:** Higher Education & Workforce Development: 2/16/24, 2/21/24 [DP-WM].

Ways & Means: 2/24/24, 2/26/24 [DPA, DNP, w/oRec].

### Brief Summary of Amended Bill

- Establishes a pilot program for a private not-for-profit institution to offer College in the High School courses at not cost to students.
- Requires as a condition for participation in the pilot program that an institution sign an affidavit that they attest to certain nondiscrimination policies.

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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**Majority Report:** Do pass and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

Signed by Senators Nobles, Chair; Hansen, Vice Chair; Holy, Ranking Member; Hawkins and Randall.

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*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.*

**Staff:** Alicia Kinne-Clawson (786-7407)

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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**Majority Report:** Do pass as amended.

Signed by Senators Robinson, Chair; Mullet, Vice Chair, Capital; Nguyen, Vice Chair, Operating; Wilson, L., Ranking Member, Operating; Gildon, Assistant Ranking Member, Operating; Rivers, Assistant Ranking Member, Capital; Billig, Boehnke, Braun, Conway, Dhingra, Hunt, Keiser, Muzzall, Pedersen, Randall, Saldaña, Torres, Van De Wege, Wagoner and Wellman.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass.

Signed by Senator Schoesler, Ranking Member, Capital.

**Minority Report:** That it be referred without recommendation.

Signed by Senator Hasegawa.

**Staff:** Michele Alishahi (786-7433)

**Background:** College in the High School (CHS) programs provide college-level courses in high schools or high school environments to qualified students who are in or are eligible for enrollment in grades 9 through 12. Students who participate in a CHS program are able to earn both high school and postsecondary credit by completing postsecondary level courses with a passing grade. Programs are established in individual agreements between the schools and colleges or universities.

Beginning September 1, 2023, institutions of higher education must provide enrollment and registration in CHS courses at no cost for students in grades 9 through 12 at public high schools. Beginning with the 2023-25 State Omnibus Operating Appropriations Act (Operating Budget), the Legislature must appropriate state funding for CHS courses administered at public secondary schools. State appropriation must be calculated using the total CHS courses administered in the prior academic year, funded at \$300 per student up to a maximum rate of:

- \$6,000 per CHS course administered by a state university;
- \$5,000 per CHS course administered by a regional university or the state college; or
- \$3,500 per CHS course administered by a community or technical college.

**Summary of Amended Bill:** Subject to amounts appropriated specifically for this purpose, the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) must select a private, not-for-profit four-year institution of higher education to participate in a pilot program offering college in the high school courses at no cost to students. The pilot program must select an institution whose main campus is located in Yakima county and who serves rural or underserved communities.

WSAC must distribute the funds to the pilot institution at a rate of \$300 per student, up to a maximum of \$6,000 per college in the high school course administered by the pilot institution.

College in the high school courses must not include content or instruction that would subject the students to religious behavior or conduct.

The pilot institution must report to WSAC data including but not limited to: courses offered, student enrollment disaggregated by demographic, and where courses are taught. WSAC must report to the Legislature on the pilot program by December 1, 2025, and annually thereafter.

In administering the pilot program, WSAC must adopt rules which allow for each institution of higher learning to annually sign an affidavit that the institution has adopted nondiscrimination policies. The affidavit must affirm that the institution has anti-discrimination provisions which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, citizenship or immigration status, sex, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. The anti-discrimination requirements apply to the institution's education programs and activities for students, and for employment of any person.

The pilot program expires December 31, 2030.

**EFFECT OF WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE AMENDMENT(S):**

- Requires an institution participating in the college in the high school pilot program created in section 1 of this act to sign an affidavit that they attest to certain nondiscrimination policies.

**Appropriation:** The bill contains a section or sections to limit implementation to the availability of amounts appropriated for that specific purpose.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

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

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Engrossed Substitute House Bill (Higher Education & Workforce Development):** PRO: What we are trying to do is establish a pilot program that would target a school in Yakima county that is serving a very unique community. They are the only school located on a reservation and serve many of the high schools in our area. This will help students in the lower Yakima valley to take college

courses and continue their education. Our preference is the prime sponsors original bill that gave students more college in the high school options. If state support becomes available, Heritage University would like the opportunity to renew its CiHS program in several schools. Same for Gonzaga, Whitworth, Pacific Lutheran University, and Seattle University.

**Persons Testifying (Higher Education & Workforce Development):** PRO: Representative Chris Corry, Prime Sponsor; Terri Standish-Kuon, Ph.D., Independent Colleges of Washington.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying (Higher Education & Workforce Development):** No one.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Engrossed Substitute House Bill (Ways & Means):** *The committee recommended a different version of the bill than what was heard.* PRO: Our College in the High School programs meet the same accreditation and reporting requirements as our other public higher education colleagues. College in the High School programs run by not-for-profit universities are interested in serving more Washingtonians and this bill is an important way to leverage the state's entire higher education ecosystem.

**Persons Testifying (Ways & Means):** PRO: Terri Standish-Kuon, Ph.D., Independent Colleges of Washington.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying (Ways & Means):** No one.