

SENATE BILL REPORT

E2SSB 5670

As Passed Senate, February 2, 2024

Title: An act relating to permitting 10th grade students to participate in running start in online settings.

Brief Description: Providing summer running start for rising juniors.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Hawkins, Randall, Holy, Kuderer, Nguyen, Nobles, Saldaña and Wilson, L.).

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Higher Education & Workforce Development: 2/08/23, 2/15/23 [DPS-WM].

Ways & Means: 2/21/23, 2/24/23 [DP2S, w/oRec].

Floor Activity: Passed Senate: 2/2/24, 48-0.

Brief Summary of Engrossed Second Substitute Bill

- Permits rising 11th grade students to participate in Running Start courses during the summer academic term.
- Requires that rising 11th grade Running Start students take no more than ten quarter credits per summer academic term, or the semester equivalent.
- Requires school districts to provide information about Running Start enrollment opportunities during the summer academic term.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5670 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

Signed by Senators Randall, Chair; Nobles, Vice Chair; Holy, Ranking Member;

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.

Hawkins and Liias.

Staff: Benjamin Omdal (786-7442)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Majority Report: That Second Substitute Senate Bill No. 5670 be substituted therefor, and the second substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Rolfes, Chair; Robinson, Vice Chair, Operating & Revenue; Mullet, Vice Chair, Capital; Wilson, L., Ranking Member, Operating; Gildon, Assistant Ranking Member, Operating; Schoesler, Ranking Member, Capital; Rivers, Assistant Ranking Member, Capital; Warnick, Assistant Ranking Member, Capital; Boehnke, Braun, Conway, Dhingra, Hasegawa, Hunt, Muzzall, Nguyen, Pedersen, Torres, Van De Wege, Wagoner and Wellman.

Minority Report: That it be referred without recommendation.

Signed by Senators Billig, Keiser and Saldaña.

Staff: Kayla Hammer (786-7305)

Background: Running Start. Running Start allows 11th- and 12th-grade high school students to take courses at community colleges, technical colleges, and various four-year institutions of higher education. Upon completion of a course, students earn both high school and college credit.

Running Start students and their families do not pay tuition, but students must pay college fees, purchase textbooks and other materials, and provide their own transportation to and from the institution. Since 2011 higher education institutions that are not community or technical colleges may charge up to 10 percent of tuition costs to students.

Institutions are reimbursed by local schools districts for costs of Running Start students. Current law requires districts to reimburse the institutions at a per student rate allotted for basic education funding, with the districts retaining 7 percent of these funds. Vocational students are funded at an additional rate.

A pupil who enrolls in Running Start courses in grade 11 may not enroll for high school credit and postsecondary credit for more than the equivalent of the coursework for two academic years. A pupil who enrolls in Running Start courses in grade 12 may not enroll for high school credit and postsecondary credit for more than the equivalent of the coursework for one academic year.

School districts must provide general information about the Running Start program to all pupils in grades 10, 11, and 12 and the parents and guardians of those pupils, including information about the opportunity to enroll in the program through online courses.

Summary of Engrossed Second Substitute Bill: Rising 11th grade students may enroll in Running Start for up to ten quarter credits, or the semester equivalent, during the summer academic term. Rising 11th grade students are defined as students who have completed their tenth grade year and not yet begun their 11th grade year.

In addition to current requirements on providing information on Running Start, school districts must provide information about Running Start enrollment opportunities during the summer academic term.

Appropriation: None.

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 Original Bill (Higher Education & Workforce Development): *The committee recommended a different version of the bill than what was heard.* PRO: This would be an excellent opportunity for tenth graders who want to be academically challenged, to participate in Running Start if the majority of the workload is online. Taking only online courses will alleviate some of the concerns around having tenth graders in a college environment, as well as transportation concerns.

CON: This bill may impact student development at a critical point in their education. Few students in this age bracket are successful with online courses. Pulling more students out of schools may limit their ability to run comprehensive programs. This would cut families and counselors out of the ability to provide support to tenth grade students.

OTHER: Dual credit programs can positively impact student success. Ensuring equitable access to dual credit programs is a priority; this bill may further add to existing equity issues as some students do not have access to Internet or computers. This will create challenges for master scheduling and budgeting for smaller school districts.

Persons Testifying (Higher Education & Workforce Development): PRO: Senator Brad Hawkins, Prime Sponsor.

CON: Roz Thompson, Association of Washington School Principals.

OTHER: Kristin Murphy, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony on First Substitute (Ways & Means): *The*

committee recommended a different version of the bill than what was heard. OTHER: This bill will require colleges to designate whether a course is eligible for tenth grade running start students, or only for 11th and 12th grade running start students, which creates an estimated cost of \$459,000 dollars annually for Washington's 34 community and technical colleges. There are also concerns that this will divert younger students out of the high school environment to take challenging course work online.

Persons Testifying (Ways & Means): OTHER: Jamie Traugott, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges; Anna Hernandez-French, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

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