
SENATE BILL 6296

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Senators Boehnke and Dozier

Read first time 01/23/24. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a retail industry work group;
2 creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A 2023 report examining the future of the
5 retail workforce in Washington state found that prioritizing ways to
6 reduce turnover and increase internal promotion would offer benefits
7 to both employers and workers simultaneously. To accomplish this, the
8 report recommends the standardization of the credentials, degrees,
9 and postsecondary awards that are of benefit to individuals in the
10 retail industry as well as identifying credential pathways toward
11 academic degrees that would support a retail career path.

12 (1) The state board for community and technical colleges shall
13 establish a retail work group consisting of higher education,
14 business, labor, and workforce development representatives with
15 expertise in the retail workforce. The work group shall identify and
16 report to the legislature by October 1, 2025, the following:

17 (a) Degrees, certificates, and education programs of value to the
18 retail workforce;

19 (b) Gaps in educational opportunities and skill development in
20 existing academic programs;

1 (c) Best practices in program design and curriculum for high
2 quality credentials in support of the retail sector;
3 (d) Career pathways for individuals in the retail sector with a
4 focus on stackable credentials; and
5 (e) Any barriers individuals face in attaining high quality
6 credentials in support of a retail career.
7 (2) The work group shall recommend up to four colleges for pilot
8 programs for short-term credentials and microcredentials in support
9 of the retail workforce. These pilot programs must be designed with
10 the best practices from subsection (1) of this section.
11 (3) This section expires July 1, 2026.

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