

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 6296

68th Legislature
2024 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate February 13,
2024

Yeas 49 Nays 0

President of the Senate

Passed by the House February 27, 2024

Yeas 95 Nays 0

**Speaker of the House of
Representatives**

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 6296** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

Secretary

FILED

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 6296

Passed Legislature - 2024 Regular Session

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 and state-registered apprenticeship programs that
12 would support a retail career path.

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

18 (a) Degrees, certificates, state-registered apprenticeship
19 programs, and education programs of value to the retail workforce;

20 (b) Gaps in educational opportunities and skill development in
21 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) "State-registered apprenticeship program" means an approved
12 apprenticeship program under chapter 49.04 RCW that has been approved
13 to participate in state financial aid programs.
14 (4) This section expires July 1, 2026.

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