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SENATE BILL 6091

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senators Keiser and Franklin

Read first time 02/24/09. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding the college board worker retraining  
2 program; amending RCW 28C.04.390 and 28C.04.410; adding a new section  
3 to chapter 28C.04 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28B.50 RCW;  
4 adding a new section to chapter 74.39A RCW; and adding a new section to  
5 chapter 18.88B RCW.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.04 RCW  
8 to read as follows:

9 The legislature finds that it is an important function of state  
10 government to increase opportunities for gainful employment and  
11 expanded career opportunities for individuals in occupations necessary  
12 to support industries driving Washington's economy. Further, the  
13 legislature declares that it is equally important to support  
14 Washington's employer community by developing a pipeline of highly  
15 trained and skilled workers readily available to fill positions in  
16 high-demand occupations. The legislature intends to create training  
17 and skill development opportunities in disciplines for which there is  
18 high employer demand for Washingtonians who have been dislocated from

1 occupations that are in declining demand and increase the availability  
2 of career ladders to incumbent workers in high-demand industries  
3 through the expansion of the existing worker retraining program.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28C.04.390 and 1999 c 121 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) The college board worker retraining program funds shall be used  
7 for training programs and related support services, including financial  
8 aid, counseling, referral to training resources, job referral, and job  
9 development that:

10 (a) Are consistent with the unified plan for workforce development;

11 (b) Provide increased enrollments for dislocated workers;

12 (c) Provide customized training opportunities for dislocated  
13 workers; (~~and~~)

14 (d) Provide increased enrollments and support services, including  
15 financial aid for those students not receiving unemployment insurance  
16 benefits, that do not replace or supplant any existing enrollments,  
17 programs, support services, or funding sources; and

18 (e) Provide funding and education for dislocated and incumbent  
19 workers in high-demand fields of study, including health care.

20 (2) The college board shall develop a plan for use of the worker  
21 retraining program funds in conjunction with the workforce training  
22 customer advisory committee established in subsection (3) of this  
23 section. In developing the plan the college board shall:

24 (a) Provide that applicants for worker retraining program funds  
25 shall solicit financial support for training programs and give priority  
26 in receipt of funds to those applicants which are most successful in  
27 matching public dollars with financial support;

28 (b) Provide that applicants for worker retraining program funds  
29 shall develop training programs in partnership with local businesses,  
30 industry associations, labor, and other partners as appropriate and  
31 give priority in receipt of funds to those applicants who develop  
32 customized training programs in partnership with local businesses,  
33 industry associations, and labor organizations;

34 (c) Give priority in receipt of funds to those applicants serving  
35 rural areas;

36 (d) Ensure that applicants receiving worker retraining program

1 funds gather information from local workforce development councils on  
2 employer workforce needs, including the needs of businesses with less  
3 than twenty-five employees; (~~and~~)

4 (e) Provide for specialized vocational training at a private career  
5 school or college at the request of a recipient eligible under  
6 subsection (1)(b) of this section. Available tuition for the training  
7 is limited to the amount that would otherwise be payable per enrolled  
8 quarter to a public institution;

9 (f) Develop training programs that facilitate career progression in  
10 health care occupations; and

11 (g) Involve labor-management partnerships in the determination of  
12 relevant skills and competencies and the design of career pathways.

13 (3) The executive director of the college board shall appoint a  
14 workforce training customer advisory committee by July 1, 1999, to:

15 (a) Assist in the development of the plan for the use of the  
16 college board worker retraining program funds and recommend guidelines  
17 to the college board for the operation of worker retraining programs;

18 (b) Recommend selection criteria for worker retraining programs and  
19 grant applicants for receipt of worker retraining program grants;

20 (c) Provide advice to the college board on other workforce  
21 development activities of the community and technical colleges;

22 (d) Recommend selection criteria for job skills grants, consistent  
23 with criteria established in this chapter and chapter 121, Laws of  
24 1999. Such criteria shall include a prioritization of job skills  
25 applicants in rural areas;

26 (e) Recommend guidelines to the college board for the operation of  
27 the job skills program; and

28 (f) Recommend grant applicants for receipt of job skills program  
29 grants.

30 (4) Members of the workforce training customer advisory committee  
31 shall consist of three college system representatives selected by the  
32 executive director of the college board, three representatives of  
33 business selected from nominations provided by statewide business  
34 organizations, and three representatives of labor selected from  
35 nominations provided by a statewide labor organization representing a  
36 cross-section of workers in the state.

37 (5) The college board shall use existing public and private  
38 resources, including the training partnership under chapter 74.39A RCW,

1 to achieve the goals of recruiting, supporting, and training persons  
2 working in health care fields, as they progress to higher levels of  
3 skilled care.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 The college board shall coordinate with the employment security  
7 department, the training partnership established in RCW 74.39A.360, and  
8 the board to implement the training system for persons working in  
9 health care fields designed by the college board, pursuant to section  
10 5 of this act.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 74.39A RCW  
12 to read as follows:

13 The training partnership established in RCW 74.39A.360 shall work  
14 in collaboration with the state board for community and technical  
15 colleges, the workforce training and education coordinating board, and  
16 the employment security department to develop and implement the  
17 training system for persons working in health care fields designed by  
18 the college board, pursuant to section 5 of this act.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 18.88B RCW  
20 to read as follows:

21 (1) The hospital labor management training partnership shall work  
22 in collaboration with the state board for community and technical  
23 colleges, the workforce training and education coordinating board, and  
24 the employment security department in the development and  
25 implementation of the health care career ladder.

26 (2) For purposes of this section, "hospital labor management  
27 training partnership" means a program that enables hospital workers to  
28 gain access to a college education in order to help them progress up  
29 the career ladder, increasing the availability of skilled workers in  
30 high demand health care fields.

31 **Sec. 6.** RCW 28C.04.410 and 1999 c 121 s 2 are each amended to read  
32 as follows:

33 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in

1 this section apply throughout (~~RCW 28C.04.390 and 28C.04.420~~) this  
2 chapter.

3 (1) "Applicant" means an educational institution which has made  
4 application for a job skills grant under RCW 28C.04.390 and 28C.04.420.

5 (2) "Business and industry" means a private corporation,  
6 institution, firm, person, group, or association concerned with  
7 commerce, trades, manufacturing, or the provision of services within  
8 the state, or a public or nonprofit hospital licensed by the department  
9 of social and health services.

10 (3) "College board" means the state board for community and  
11 technical colleges under chapter 28B.50 RCW.

12 (4) "Dislocated worker" means an individual who meets the  
13 definition of dislocated worker contained in P.L. 105-220, Sec. 101 on  
14 July 25, 1999.

15 (~~(4)~~) (5) "Educational institution" means a public secondary or  
16 postsecondary institution, an independent institution, or a private  
17 career school or college within the state authorized by law to provide  
18 a program of skills training or education beyond the secondary school  
19 level. Any educational institution receiving a job skills grant under  
20 RCW 28C.04.420 through 28C.04.480 shall be free of sectarian control or  
21 influence as set forth in Article IX, section 4 of the state  
22 Constitution.

23 (~~(5)~~) (6) "Equipment" means tangible personal property which will  
24 further the objectives of the supported program and for which a  
25 definite value and evidence in support of the value have been provided  
26 by the donor.

27 (~~(6)~~) (7) "Financial support" means any thing of value which is  
28 contributed by business, industry, and others to an educational  
29 institution which is reasonably calculated to support directly the  
30 development and expansion of a particular program under RCW 28C.04.390  
31 and 28C.04.420 and represents an addition to any financial support  
32 previously or customarily provided to such educational institutions by  
33 the donor. "Financial support" includes, but is not limited to, funds,  
34 equipment, facilities, faculty, and scholarships for matriculating  
35 students and trainees.

36 (~~(7)~~) (8) "Job skills grant" means funding that is provided to an  
37 educational institution by the commission for the development or  
38 significant expansion of a program under RCW 28C.04.390 and 28C.04.420.

1        ~~((+8))~~ (9) "Job skills program" means a program of skills training  
2 or education separate from and in addition to existing vocational  
3 education programs and which:

4        (a) Provides short-term training which has been designated for  
5 specific industries;

6        (b) Provides training for prospective employees before a new plant  
7 opens or when existing industry expands;

8        (c) Includes training and retraining for workers already employed  
9 by an existing industry or business where necessary to avoid  
10 dislocation or where upgrading of existing employees would create new  
11 vacancies for unemployed persons;

12        (d) Serves areas with high concentrations of economically  
13 disadvantaged persons and high unemployment;

14        (e) Serves areas with new and growing industries;

15        (f) Serves areas where there is a shortage of skilled labor to meet  
16 job demands; or

17        (g) Promotes the location of new industry in areas affected by  
18 economic dislocation.

19        ~~((+9))~~ (10) "Labor-management partnership" means a Taft-Hartley  
20 trust or partnership between labor and management representatives that  
21 is formalized through a written agreement calling for joint decision  
22 making related to specific employee benefits, programs, or other  
23 efforts to benefit workers, or an organization comprised of  
24 representatives from organized labor and businesses for the betterment  
25 of that industry's workforce including the labor-management partnership  
26 as defined in chapter 74.39A RCW.

27        (11) "Persons working in health care fields" means registered  
28 nurses, licensed practical nurses, health care assistants, long-term  
29 care workers, and unlicensed assistive nursing personnel providing  
30 direct patient care under RCW 18.135.020 or 18.88A.020.

31        (12) "Technical assistance" means professional and any other  
32 assistance provided by business and industry to an educational  
33 institution, which is reasonably calculated to support directly the  
34 development and expansion of a particular program and which represents  
35 an addition to any technical assistance previously or customarily  
36 provided to the educational institutions by the donor.

1           (~~(10) "College board" means the state board for community and~~  
2 ~~technical colleges under chapter 28B.50 RCW.)~~)

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