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SENATE BILL 6662

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State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2010 Regular Session

By Senators Kilmer, Roach, Kastama, Keiser, Zarelli, and Shin

Read first time 01/20/10. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1            AN ACT Relating to developing a curriculum for a career track for  
2 home care aides; and creating new sections.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there is a need  
5 to create career pathways in health care professions to prepare  
6 Washington state to emerge strong from the economic downturn. The  
7 legislature further finds that certified home care aides are a valuable  
8 potential source of advanced degree health care workers who will be  
9 needed to meet the health care needs of Washington state. In addition,  
10 the legislature finds that health care occupations, such as home care  
11 aides and registered nurses, will be among the fastest growing  
12 occupations over the next decade despite the recession and rising  
13 unemployment. Despite these findings, the legislature recognizes that  
14 entry-level, long-term jobs often have little room for advancement.  
15 The legislature intends to provide additional career advancement  
16 training opportunities for home care aides through partnerships between  
17 the community college system, federal agencies, local governments,  
18 private foundations, and labor-management organizations to promote the  
19 development of these career pathways.

1        NEW SECTION.        **Sec. 2.**        (1) To the extent that funds are  
2 specifically appropriated for this purpose, by June 1, 2011, the state  
3 board for community and technical colleges, in consultation with the  
4 training partnership established in RCW 74.39A.360, shall solicit  
5 proposals from community and technical colleges to develop and adapt  
6 curriculum for up to three existing degree and certificate programs in  
7 health care, social services, and special education to be used as part  
8 of a career track for incumbent home care aides.

9        (2) The curriculum development and adaptation shall include  
10 integrated credit for prior learning in basic and advanced home care  
11 aide training, delivered under RCW 74.39A.073 or 74.39A.350, and shall  
12 also integrate best practices for working adults. The colleges shall  
13 solicit input from health care, social service, and special education  
14 labor-management partnerships, and centers of excellence, throughout  
15 the curriculum development and adaptation process.

16        (3) Curriculum developed or adapted pursuant to this section shall  
17 be made available for replication across the state and shall be posted  
18 on the appropriate center of excellence web sites.

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