
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5254

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Kilmer, Kastama, Fairley, Rockefeller, Kauffman, Marr, Hatfield, Weinstein, Keiser, Sheldon, McAuliffe, Eide, Kohl-Welles, Shin, Murray, Tom, Regala, Spanel and Kline)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to industry skill panels; amending RCW 28C.18.010;
2 adding new sections to chapter 28C.18 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that a skilled
5 work force is essential for employers and job seekers to compete in
6 today's global economy. The engines of economic progress are fueled by
7 education and training. The legislature further finds that industry
8 skill panels are a critical and proven form of public-private
9 partnership that harness the expertise of leaders in business, labor,
10 and education to identify work force development strategies for
11 industries that drive Washington's regional economies. Industry skill
12 panels foster innovation and enable industry leaders and public
13 partners to be proactive, addressing changing needs for businesses
14 quickly and strategically. Industry skill panels leverage small state
15 investments with private sector investments to ensure that public
16 resources are better aligned with industry needs.

17 (2) The legislature further finds that industry skill panels
18 support other valuable initiatives such as the department of community,
19 trade, and economic development's cluster-based economic development

1 grants; the community and technical college centers of excellence,
2 high-demand funds, and the job skills program; and the employment
3 security department's incumbent worker training funds. Industry skill
4 panels provide a framework for coordinating these and other investments
5 in line with economic and work force development strategies identified
6 by industry leaders. It is the intent of the legislature to support
7 the development and maintenance of industry skill panels in key sectors
8 of the economy as an efficient and effective way to support regional
9 economic development.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28C.18.010 and 1996 c 99 s 2 are each amended to read
11 as follows:

12 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
13 this section apply throughout this title.

14 (1) "Board" means the work force training and education
15 coordinating board.

16 (2) "Director" means the director of the work force training and
17 education coordinating board.

18 (3) "Training system" means programs and courses of secondary
19 vocational education, technical college programs and courses, community
20 college vocational programs and courses, private career school and
21 college programs and courses, employer-sponsored training, adult basic
22 education programs and courses, programs and courses funded by the
23 (~~job training partnership~~) federal workforce investment act, programs
24 and courses funded by the federal vocational act, programs and courses
25 funded under the federal adult education act, publicly funded programs
26 and courses for adult literacy education, and apprenticeships, and
27 programs and courses offered by private and public nonprofit
28 organizations that are representative of communities or significant
29 segments of communities and provide job training or adult literacy
30 services.

31 (4) "Work force skills" means skills developed through applied
32 learning that strengthen and reinforce an individual's academic
33 knowledge, critical thinking, problem solving, and work ethic and,
34 thereby, develop the employability, occupational skills, and management
35 of home and work responsibilities necessary for economic independence.

36 (5) "Vocational education" means organized educational programs
37 offering a sequence of courses which are directly related to the

1 preparation or retraining of individuals in paid or unpaid employment
2 in current or emerging occupations requiring other than a baccalaureate
3 or advanced degree. Such programs shall include competency-based
4 applied learning which contributes to an individual's academic
5 knowledge, higher-order reasoning, and problem-solving skills, work
6 attitudes, general employability skills, and the occupational-specific
7 skills necessary for economic independence as a productive and
8 contributing member of society. Such term also includes applied
9 technology education.

10 (6) "Adult basic education" means instruction designed to achieve
11 mastery of skills in reading, writing, oral communication, and
12 computation at a level sufficient to allow the individual to function
13 effectively as a parent, worker, and citizen in the United States,
14 commensurate with that individual's actual ability level, and includes
15 English as a second language and preparation and testing service for
16 the general education development exam.

17 (7) "Industry skill panel" means a regional partnership of
18 business, labor, and education leaders that identifies skill gaps in a
19 key economic cluster and enables the industry and public partners to
20 respond to and be proactive in addressing workforce skill needs.

21 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 28C.18 RCW
22 to read as follows:

23 (1) Subject to funding provided for the purposes of this section,
24 the board, in consultation with the state board for community and
25 technical colleges, the department of community, trade, and economic
26 development, and the employment security department, shall allocate
27 grants on a competitive basis to establish and support industry skill
28 panels.

29 (2) Eligible applicants for the grants allocated under this section
30 include, but are not limited to, work force development councils,
31 community and technical colleges, economic development councils,
32 private career schools, chambers of commerce, trade associations, and
33 apprenticeship councils.

34 (3) Entities applying for a grant under this section shall provide
35 an employer match of at least twenty-five percent to be eligible. The
36 local match may include in-kind services.

1 (4) It shall be the role of industry skill panels funded under this
2 chapter to enable businesses in the industry to address work force
3 skill needs. Industry skill panels shall identify work force
4 strategies to meet the needs in order to benefit employers and workers
5 across the industry. Examples of strategies include, but are not
6 limited to: Developing career guidance materials; producing or
7 updating skill standards and curricula; designing training programs and
8 courses; developing technical assessments and certifications; arranging
9 employer mentoring, tutoring, and internships; identifying private
10 sector assistance in providing faculty or equipment to training
11 providers; and organizing industry conferences disseminating best
12 practices. The products and services of particular skill panels shall
13 depend upon the needs of the industry.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18 RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 The board shall establish industry skill panel standards that
17 identify the expectations for industry skill panel products and
18 services. The board shall establish the standards in consultation with
19 labor, the state board for community and technical colleges, the
20 employment security department, the institute of workforce development
21 and economic sustainability, and the department of community, trade,
22 and economic development. Continued funding of particular industry
23 skill panels shall be based on meeting the standards established by the
24 board under this section. Beginning December 1, 2008, the board shall
25 report annually to the governor and the economic development and higher
26 education committees of the legislature on the results of the industry
27 skill panels funded under this chapter in meeting the standards.

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