
SENATE BILL 5731

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Senators Shin, Delvin, Berkey, Sheldon, Tom, Oemig, Rasmussen, Pridemore, Roach, Jacobsen and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/30/2007. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to educating students in high demand fields;
2 creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The state of Washington leads the nation in
5 providing employment for people with baccalaureate degrees, but only
6 ranks thirty-sixth in the nation in the production of degrees.
7 Beginning in 2007 it is estimated that for job openings in Washington
8 that require a bachelor's degree, forty-seven percent will be in fields
9 identified as high demand or high impact, but that only fourteen
10 percent of Washington students each year graduate with degrees in one
11 of these fields. Washington ranks among the top ten states in
12 scientists and computer specialists employed per capita and leads the
13 nation in engineers employed per capita, but must import employees to
14 meet employer demands. Therefore, the legislature finds that
15 Washington needs to produce eight to ten thousand additional
16 baccalaureate degrees per year so that Washington employers will not
17 have to look out of state to find employees.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A committee on the education of students
2 in high demand fields is established to:

3 (a) Develop a plan to increase the capacity of Washington
4 institutions of higher education by ten thousand students per year by
5 2020 to produce baccalaureate and advanced degrees in high impact, high
6 demand areas of study;

7 (b) Develop a marketing project to inform students, parents, and
8 educators of opportunities in high demand fields;

9 (c) Investigate ways to motivate students to take more mathematics
10 and science courses in high school and college; and

11 (d) Identify ways that the business community can enter into more
12 partnerships with the state to ensure that Washington institutions of
13 higher education produce graduates in high demand fields that are ready
14 and able to find employment in Washington.

15 (2) The committee shall consist of:

16 (a) Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the
17 speaker of the house of representatives;

18 (b) Two members of the senate, appointed by the president of the
19 senate;

20 (c) One person representing the higher education coordinating
21 board, appointed by the director of the board;

22 (d) One person representing the state board for community and
23 technical colleges, appointed by the director of the state board;

24 (e) One person representing the office of the superintendent of
25 public instruction, appointed by the superintendent of public
26 instruction;

27 (f) One person representing each of the following, appointed by the
28 governor:

29 (i) The labor council;

30 (ii) The council of presidents; and

31 (iii) The prosperity partnership; and

32 (g) A graduate student member of the Washington student lobby,
33 appointed by the governor.

34 (3) The committee shall report its findings and recommendations to
35 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2007.

36 (4) This section expires December 31, 2007.

--- END ---