

Overview of Legislation Related to Workforce and Supporting Low-Income Residents in Washington

MAY 2012



State Creates New Student Achievement Council

E2SHB 2483

Abolishes the State's Higher Education Coordinating (HEC) Board and replaces it with **The Student Achievement Council (SAC)**. The SAC is composed of nine members, including representatives from K-12, community colleges and four-year institutions. Its overall goal is to increase educational attainment in the state, and it must: develop a strategic road-map, updated every two years; develop performance plans; conduct system reviews; conduct research jointly with the Education Research and Data Center (ERDC) to identify barriers to educational attainment and transitions; track progress toward goals and disseminate results; set minimum college admissions standards for the four-year institutions; and administer Financial Aid. It also requires the State Board for Community & Technical Colleges (SBCTC) to assess whether any of the "complete to compete" measures should be used as performance measures for community and technical colleges.

In addition, the state budget provides for the following:

- **Transfers** - **\$340,033,000** from the Office of Student Financial Assistance and **\$3,369,000** from the Council for Higher Education to the Student Achievement Council to perform its duties of administering Financial Aid under **E2SHB 2483**.
- **Leadership 1000** - **\$1,000,000** for the Leadership 1000 Scholarship Program, which matches private donors with selected economically disadvantaged students who would otherwise be unable to attend college after depleting all other sources of financial aid.

Focus on Aerospace and Advanced Manufacturing

E2SHB 2156

Requires the State Board for Community & Technical Colleges (SBCTC) to **coordinate and align aerospace training programs** (including short- and long-term training providers and apprenticeships providers) and to establish the Aerospace and Advanced Materials Manufacturing Pipeline Advisory Committee. The State Workforce Board is required to evaluate certain training programs every year (see below) and analyze the results of the training system every four years. The bill also makes the Aerospace Training Student Loan Program available to students enrolled in aerospace industry courses offered by Renton Technical College. The state budget provides **\$36,000** to the Workforce Board to produce (with SBCTC) a skills gap analysis and conduct an annual evaluation of aerospace and advanced materials manufacturing training programs. It also provides **\$131,000** to SBCTC to support their implementation role.

SB 5982

Creates the Joint Center for Aerospace Technology Innovation, which is charged with pursuing joint industry-university research for use by aerospace firms, to enhance the education of engineering students, and to work with the aerospace industry to identify research needs and opportunities to transfer technologies. The Center will be jointly operated by the University of Washington and Washington State University.

In addition to E2SHB 2156 and SB 5982, the state budget provides for the following:

- **Skill Center Aerospace Training - \$150,000** for aerospace and manufacturing course equipment and curriculum to two Skills Centers in FY 2013.
- **Aerospace Assembler Program - \$300,000** for startup grants to establish additional Aerospace Assembler programs at 12 high schools in FY 2013.

Additional Funding for Education and Training

SB 6141

Establishes the Lifelong Learning Program at the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board to allow employees to create Lifelong Learning Accounts (LiLAs). The Workforce Board may partner with financial institutions and nonprofits to develop operating procedures, ensure adequate marketing, and coordinate career counseling services.

SB 6121

Requires the Office of Student Financial Assistance to provide a financial aid counseling curriculum for institutions of higher education that participate in the State Need Grant program. The curriculum must be available online and must include an explanation of the program rules, student loan options/consequences, scholarships and work study, as well as financial literacy information and average salary ranges for jobs. The State Need Grant program assists disadvantaged students by providing grants to offset a portion of their higher education costs.

SB 6371

This bill extends by 5 years (through 2017) the Washington Customized Employment Workforce Training Program. Administered by the SBCTC, the program awards training allowances to employers (smaller employers receive preference) seeking to locate or expand in Washington to enter into training agreements with community colleges. The state budget provides **\$200,000** for FY 2012 and **\$1,851,000** for FY 2012 for the Program.

In addition to these bills, the state budget provides for the following:

- **STEM Degree Production - \$2 million** is provided for educational opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math.

Adapted from 2012 Washington State legislative reports developed by the Washington State Board for Community & Technical Colleges and by the Washington State Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board.