

## Senate and House budget bills call for further higher ed cuts but restore financial aid

The 2010 supplemental budget proposals released by House and Senate budget writers this week would restore millions of dollars in student financial aid proposed for elimination to help offset the state's projected \$2.8 billion shortfall for the remainder of the biennium.

Both the House budget bill (HB 2824) and the Senate version (SB 6444), were scheduled for executive action this afternoon in the Senate and House Ways & Means Committees.

The House and Senate versions would restore all of the \$146 million in State Need Grant (SNG) funding that would be eliminated under the Governor's "all cuts" supplemental budget proposal released in December. (The Governor released a second budget proposal in January that would restore SNG funds through a combination of revenue-raising measures.)

"We need to support our college students, and cutting Need Grants was something that was not okay with us."  
—Rep. Kelli Linville, Chair House Ways & Means Committee

The House and Senate bills would implement various belt-tightening and revenue-generating measures to balance the budget while maintaining financial aid and other essential state programs.

The Senate version reduces appropriations to the state's public institutions by nearly \$70 million; the House budget bill would reduce those appropriations by nearly \$41 million.

### State Work Study (SWS)

Both House and Senate bills propose continued funding for SWS in 2010-11, rather than suspending the program as per the Governor's supplemental budget proposals. The House bill cuts SWS funding by \$7.7 million, while the Senate bill reduces funding by \$7.4 million – approximately one-third cuts to program funding. The Senate bill suspends \$250,000 in proviso funding for SWS Math & Science Teacher projects while the House would continue funding this initiative (not reflected in the Senate cut of \$7.4 million to SWS). Additionally, the Senate bill encourages increases to current employer reimbursement rates and limits non-resident participation.

### Tuition bill appears dead

Legislation allowing the UW, WSU, and WWU to set resident undergraduate and graduate tuition within defined limits and subject certain conditions through 2017-18 appears dead for this session.

E2SSB 6562, which passed in the Senate Feb. 15, had a hearing in the House Higher Education Committee this week, but it failed to move before a deadline for reporting bills out of committee.

The 2009 Legislature gave public baccalaureate institutions additional latitude to raise resident undergraduate tuition up to 14 percent during each year of the current biennium.

WASHINGTON  
HIGHER  
EDUCATION  
COORDINATING BOARD

A weekly report on higher education during the 2010 Legislative Session



**Page 2:**  
System design bill advances

*In the news:*

Seattle Times: [Idea of moving Cascadia CC to Kirkland debated](#)

Bellingham Herald: [Senate proposes boost in sales tax](#)

Spokesman Review: [Legislature begins reconciling budgets](#)

News Tribune: [WAVE, WA Scholars funding restored in budget bills](#)

Subscribe or unsubscribe to the HECB Legislative Report at

[http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=HECBL\\_EGREPORT&A=1](http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=HECBL_EGREPORT&A=1)

## System Design Plan bill advances to House floor

SSB 6355 – the System Design Plan bill – was sent to the House floor by the Rules Committee Friday after being amended in the House Higher Education Committee on Feb. 23.

Key elements of the bill:

- Endorses the System Design Plan approved by HECB in November 2009 and adopts the recommendations and strategies in the plan.
- Supports the concept of expand on demand: near-term growth at university branch campuses, comprehensive universities, and university centers where existing capacity is available without new state capital investment.
- Establishes a process for evaluating major new capital expansion and makes them to review, evaluation and approval by the HECB prior to being sent to the Legislature.
- Removes limits on applied baccalaureate degrees and degrees are no longer designated as a pilot project.
- Identifies HECB as lead entity for purposes of evaluating major expansion and promoting innovation.
- Requires that Technology Transformation Task Force recommendations must be considered in major expansions or mission changes.

### Next week's schedule:

- **Monday March 1:** Last day to read in opposite house committee reports from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
- **Friday March 5:** Last day to consider bills from the opposite house.
- **Friday March 5:** House Higher Education Committee. Work session: Interim planning regarding future work on tuition policy. 9 a.m., House Hearing Room D.

## Bill would use Lottery money to fund financial aid

A revised Senate bill that would use state Lottery proceeds to help fund student financial aid programs passed out of the Senate Ways & Means Committee this week and was sent to the Rules Committee.

SSSB 6409 would establish the Washington Opportunity Pathways Account to receive all net revenues from in-state Lottery games that are not dedicated for other uses, including debt service on Safeco Field and the Qwest Field and Exhibition Center in Seattle.

The bill directs that the Education Construction Trust Account, which currently receives



Lottery money, would receive an equal amount from the state General Fund, but any future growth in Lottery proceeds would go to the Opportunity Pathways Account to fund financial aid.

Money in the account would be subject to legislative appropriation and could be used for these programs: recruitment of entrepreneurial researchers, innovation partnership zones, and research teams; the early childhood education and assistance program (ECEAP); the State Need Grant; the State Work Study program; College Bound Scholarships; Washington Promise Scholarships; Washington Scholars; the Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE); the Passport to College Promise; the Educational Opportunity Grant; and GET Ready for Math & Science Scholarships.

The second substitute bill passed by House Ways & Means added ECEAP, State Need Grant, Washington Scholars and WAVE to the list of programs that could be funded from the account. It also makes the account's title consistent with a bill passed in the last legislative session that placed all state-funded financial aid programs under the umbrella term Opportunity Pathways.

Although the bill has not passed out of its house of origin, it remains alive because it would become effective during FY 2011 and would be used to help balance the state budget.

## Bills delivered to Governor

- [ESHB 2921](#) – Making 2010 supplemental operation appropriations.
- [SHB 2998](#) – Suspending certain monetary awards and salary increases.
- [SSB 6382](#) – Reducing the cost of state government operations by restricting compensation.

## Bills in Senate Rules

- [SHB 2580](#) – Concerning secondary career and technical education courses.
- [HB 2638](#) – Regarding instructional materials provided in a specialized format.
- [SHB 2684](#) – Establishing opportunity centers at community colleges
- [HB 2858](#) – Regarding the purchasing authority of institutions of higher education.
- [SHB 2930](#) – Expanding the pool of qualified teachers.
- [HB 2973](#) – Creating resident student classifications for certain members of the military and their spouses and dependents.
- [HB 3068](#) – Providing access to alternative routes to certification for the recruiting Washington teachers program.
- [2SSB 6409](#) – Creating the Washington investment in excellence account.

## Bills in House Rules

- [SSB 6355](#) – Expanding the higher education system upon proven demand.
- [SB 6467](#) – Authorizing honorary degrees for students who were ordered into internment camps.
- [SSB 6706](#) – Concerning the commercialization of research at state universities.

## Bills in House Fiscal Committee

- [HB 2824](#) – Making 2010 operating supplemental appropriations.
- [HB 2836](#) – Concerning the capital budget.
- [SSB 6357](#) – Requiring policies for academic recognition of certain life and learning experiences.
- [SSB 6359](#) – Promoting efficiencies including institutional coordination and partnerships in the community and technical college system.
- [ESSB 6426](#) – Eliminating certain boards and commissions
- [E2SSB 6696](#) – Regarding education reform.
- [SSB 6727](#) – Concerning health sciences and services authorities.
- [2SSB 6790](#) – Providing regional economic development services.
- [ESSB 6805](#) – Concerning Washington state economic development commission.

## Bills in Senate Committee

- [SHB 1545](#) – Authorizing the higher education Coordinating Board to offer higher education annuities and retirement income plans.
- [SHB 2683](#) – Changing provisions of the economic development council.
- [HB 2694](#) – Regarding a bachelor of science in nursing program at the University Center.
- [SHB 2852](#) – Concerning college-level online learning by high school students.
- [SHB 2854](#) – Making changes to the state higher education loan program.
- [E2SHB 3141](#) – Redesigning the delivery of temporary assistance to needy families.
- [SB 6364](#) – Concerning the capital budget.
- [SB 6444](#) – Making 2010 operating supplemental appropriations.