

Bill change makes Snohomish college proposal subject to design-study recommendation

A revised Senate bill to establish a new state college in Snohomish County advanced this week, while bills to create or expand the mission of other colleges died in committee.

SSB 5625, the bill to establish a new Snohomish County college, received a do-pass recommendation from the Senate Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee and was forwarded to Rules.

The substitute bill includes language requested by the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) that makes establishment of the Snohomish college contingent on a determination that it is consistent with findings of a major college-system design effort now getting under way. Through the design study, the HECB and other higher education partners will look at ways to expand and shape the higher education delivery system to meet state needs over the next 20 years.

Similar bills that did not advance out of committee by this week's cutoff:

- HB 1726, SB 5575: Creating Bellevue College.
- HB 1467, SB 5864: Establishing the University of Washington Snohomish County branch campus.
- SB 5106: Creating an independent four-year polytechnical college and an investment district to finance it.

Board approves revised budget principles

Faced with a continuing downward spiral in the state's revenue forecast, the HECB has revised a set of principles it approved to help guide lawmakers in budgeting decisions about higher education.

Money from the American Recovery and Reconstruction Act (ARRA) may help Washington higher education institutions avoid the most severe cuts. The Board has argued the state should not attempt to balance its budget on the backs of higher education or students.

The ARRA states: "A public institution of higher education that receives funds under this title shall use the funds for education and general expenditures, and in such a way as to mitigate the need to raise tuition and fees for in-state students."

Budget principles

1. Any cuts made to higher education budgets should be in proportion to cuts in the general state budget.
2. Fully fund any new enrollments and any other enhancements.
3. Limit tuition increases to those allowed within current law and policy.
 - A sunset clause on tuition increases should be included.
 - Any increase should be treated as a surcharge, not as policy.
4. Set State Need Grant funding at a level sufficient to offset tuition increases impacting students at the lowest income levels.
5. Provide institutions the flexibility to manage their budget cuts to the level of appropriation provided, and adjust accountability for outcomes to reflect the new realities these cuts would create.

A weekly report on higher education during the 2009 Legislative Session



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Work continues on House financial assistance bill; Senate version dies

What's news:

PI: [State must invest in higher education](#)

News Tribune: [Double-digit tuition hike could be a bargain](#)

Seattle Times: [4-H among state programs facing big WSU budget cut?](#)

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House members discuss what to call financial assistance

House members this week continued to fine tune the House version of legislation that would make major changes to state financial assistance programs.

The House Education Appropriations Committee on Thursday passed SHB 2021, the Revitalizing Student Financial Aid bill, after considering several amendments to the substitute bill. One amendment again changes the umbrella term for all student financial assistance programs from Opportunity Fund back to Opportunity Grant, as proposed in the original bill.

[See more financial aid news](#)

In addition to the bill's rebranding provisions, SHB 2021:

- Changes the Washington Scholars award from a four-year award to a two-year award;
- Consolidates the EOG into the SNG program; phase out EOG as a separate program;
- Creates a new priority within the State Need Grant program for placebound students who have earned junior standing;
- Allows institutions to use institutional aid for students enrolled in dual-credit programs;
- Restricts eligibility for the State Work Study program to Washington residents; and
- Creates a competitive grant process within the SWS program to encourage more placements in high-demand fields.

Two amendments that were not approved would have reinstated Washington Scholars to a four-year award and proposed a workgroup to examine financial aid.

A similar Senate bill, SB 6044, was not voted out of committee this week.

Opportunity internship bill heard by House Ways & Means

Executive action was expected today on SHB 1355, which establishes an opportunity internship program for low-income high school students.

The bill encourages local consortia comprised of economic development and educational partners to create internships in high-demand fields for low-income students, and to promise job interviews to those who eventually complete postsecondary programs of study. The bill also provides students with counseling and up to one year of financial aid through the State Need Grant program.

One of the bill's sponsors, Rep. Tim Probst, D-Vancouver, told Ways & Means Tuesday that the internship program offers high-demand career pathways to students before they make life-altering mistakes. "That level of really concrete, here's-the-plan thinking works for 16- and 17-year-old kids, especially the ones who might not be thinking about college," Probst said.

Bills propose using lottery to boost financial assistance

A bill that proposes to dedicate a portion of lottery proceeds to create a state student loan program (HB 2239) was to be heard in House Ways & Means today.

The loan program would permit a variety of loan benefits to needy resident students including issuing low-interest loans, repayment of prior loans, conditional scholarships, or emergency loans.

The senate has also proposed using lottery funds to fully fund and stabilize several financial aid programs (SB 5606) – this bill was not voted out of committee this week. Another bill (SB 6086), consisting of the title only, also expressed legislative intent to re-direct lottery funding to financial aid programs.

Next week's schedule:

- **Monday March 2:** Last day to read in committee reports from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees in house of origin.
- **Friday March 6:** House Higher Education Committee. Public hearings: SSB 5043, 5044, SB 5554, ESSB 5555. 8 a.m., House Hearing Room D.

Bills delivered to Governor:

- [ESHB 1694](#) – Addressing fiscal matters for the 2007-2009 biennium.
- [ESSB 5460](#) – Reducing the administrative cost of state government during the 2007-2009 and 2009-2022 fiscal biennia.

House bills in Senate:

- [SHB 1128](#) – Changing innovation partnership zone provisions.
- [HB 1156](#) - Creating a preference in the alternative route certification program for veterans and National Guard members.

House bills in Rules/on Floor:

- [HB 1394](#) - Changing the timeline for the state comprehensive plan for workforce training and education.
- [HB 1395](#) - Clarifying terms for workforce and economic development.
- [HB 1640](#) – Modifying disclosure requirements for private investment information received by the University of Washington consolidated endowment fund.
- [HB 1675](#) – Changing the work experience provisions of the alternative route partnership grant program.
- [SHB 1841](#) – Adding a faculty member to the governing board of each four-year institution of higher education.
- [HB 1898](#)- Setting priorities for higher education capital projects.
- [HCR 4403](#) - Providing for the 2008-2018 state comprehensive plan for workforce training.
- [HCR 4404](#) – Commending the Higher Education Coordinating Board for its initiative to develop a higher education system plan.

House bills in House fiscal committee:

- [HB 1025](#) - Requiring disclosure of certain information relating to higher education course materials.
- [SHB 1096](#) - Enhancing small business participation in state purchasing.

- [SHB 1129](#) - Establishing a lifelong learning account steering committee.
- [HB 1216](#) - Adopting a 2009-2011 capital budget.
- [SHB 1235](#) - Making certain current higher education tuition-setting practices permanent.
- [HB 1243](#) - Making 2009 supplemental operating appropriations.
- [HB 1244](#) - Making 2009-2011 operating appropriations.
- [HB 1312](#) - Eliminating the exclusive authority of the University of Washington and Washington State University to offer certain engineering courses.
- [SHB 1323](#) - Providing for coordination of workforce and economic development.
- [SHB 1328](#) – Allowing public technical colleges to offer degrees that prepare students to transfer to certain bachelor degree programs.
- [HB 1353](#) - Regarding employment opportunities at institutions of higher education.
- [SHB 1355](#) - Establishing the opportunity internship program for high school students.
- [HB 1423](#) – Providing for academic employee salary increments for community and technical colleges.
- [HB 1452](#) - Concerning economic stimulus.
- [HB 1474](#) – Changing border county opportunity program provisions.
- [HB 1487](#) - Regarding resident student classification.
- [HB 1545](#) – Authorizing the Higher Education Coordinating Board to offer higher education annuities and retirement income plans.
- [HB 1671](#) – Regarding higher education accountability.
- [HB 1914](#) – Authorizing the financing of higher education institutions' maintenance and operations through the use of certificates of participation.
- [SHB 1946](#) – Regarding higher education online technology.
- [HB 1986](#) – Authorizing a peer mentoring pilot program at Western Washington University and a community or technical college.
- [HB 2000](#) – Providing a coordinated approach to creating an adequate supply of well-qualified mathematics and science teachers.
- [SHB 2021](#) – Revitalizing student financial aid.
- [HB 2118](#) – Convening an advisory committee on tuition policy.
- [HB 2119](#)- Expanding dual credit opportunities.
- [HB 2227](#) – Enacting the evergreen jobs act.
- [HB 2239](#) – Concerning the creation of a student loan program with a dedicated revenue source.

Senate Bills in House

- [SSB 5043](#) - Convening a work group to develop a single, coordinated student access portal for college information.
- [SSB 5044](#) - Changing work study provisions
- [SSB 5048](#) - Providing for coordination of workforce and economic development.
- [SB 5316](#) – Changing the timeline for the state comprehensive plan for workforce training and education.
- [SSB 5553](#) – Promoting economic development through promoting innovation and the commercialization of technologies.
- [SB 5554](#) – Regarding the job skills program.
- [ESSB 5555](#) – Regarding lifelong learning accounts.

Senate bills in Rules/on Floor

- [SSB 5001](#) - Eliminating the matching fund requirement for the American Indian endowed scholarship program.
- [SSB 5007](#) - Allowing public technical colleges to offer associate transfer degrees.
- [SSB 5172](#) – Establishing a University of Washington center for human rights.
- [SB 5173](#) - Authorizing the regional universities to confer honorary doctorate degrees.
- [SB 5175](#) - Changing the Washington college promise scholarship program.
- [SB 5177](#) - Creating a global Asia institute within the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies.
- [SSB 5276](#) - Eliminating the exclusive authority of the University of Washington and Washington State University to offer certain engineering courses.
- [SB 5316](#) - Changing the timeline for the state comprehensive plan for workforce training and education.
- [SSB 5317](#) - Clarifying the terms for workforce and economic development.
- [SSB 5376](#) - Requiring the Higher Education Coordinating Board to develop a grant program to encourage training for students studying in the medical field to work with individuals with disabilities.
- [SSB 5410](#) – Regarding the digital learning commons.
- [SB 5502](#) – Establishing the primary care physician conditional tuition waiver program.
- [SSB 5526](#) – Modifying disclosure requirements for private investment information received by the UW consolidated endowment fund.
- [SB 5588](#) – Administering, suspending, and eliminating boards and commissions.

- [SB 5625](#) – Creating a state college in Snohomish County.
- [SSB 5734](#) – Making certain current higher education tuition-setting practices permanent.
- [SSB 5776](#) – Regarding student fees, charges and assessments.
- [SSB 5778](#) – Requiring disclosure of certain course material information for higher education courses.
- [SSB 5994](#) – Eliminating boards and commissions on June 30, 2010.
- [SSB 5995](#) – Eliminating certain boards, committees, and commissions and the transfer of certain duties effective June 30, 2009.
- [SSCR 8404](#) – Providing for the 2008-18 state comprehensive plan for workforce training.
- [SGA 9014](#) – Ethelda Burke
- [SGA 9041](#) - Earl Hale

Senate bills in Senate fiscal committee:

- [SB 5176](#) - Creating a bi-state partnership for teachers of children with visual impairments.
- [SB 5222](#) - Adopting a 2009-2011 capital budget.
- [SSB 5260](#) - Motivating students through incentives to pursue postsecondary education by eliminating statewide assessments as a high school graduation requirement.
- [SB 5264](#) - Providing for academic employee salary increments for community and technical colleges.
- [SB 5308](#) - Authorizing the higher education coordinating board to offer higher education annuities and retirement income plans.
- [SB 5407](#) – Making 2009 supplemental operating appropriations.
- [SB 5538](#) – Regarding employment opportunities at institutions of higher education.
- [SB 5600](#) – Making 2009-2011 operating appropriations.
- [SB 5604](#) – Concerning economic stimulus.
- [SSB 5773](#) – Establishing the opportunity internship program for high school students.
- [SB 5789](#) – Authorizing a second health sciences and services authority.
- [SB 5809](#) – Creating a temporary workforce employment and training program.
- [SSB 5924](#) – Changing Running Start provisions.
- [SSB 5941](#) - Regarding comprehensive education data improvement systems.
- [SB 6086](#) – Concerning the use of state lottery proceeds for higher education financial aid.