

Week 3: January 27- February 2, 2014

“DREAM” / “REAL Hope” Act Passes Senate

The third week of the legislative session was marked by the State Senate’s passage of legislation on Friday that would make students eligible for State Need Grant program if they meet the following criteria:

- Completed their senior year of high school and obtained a diploma at a Washington public or private high school, or received the equivalent of a diploma;
- Lived in Washington for at least three years immediately prior to receiving the diploma or its equivalent;
- Continuously lived in the state after receiving the diploma or its equivalent and until being admitted to a public institution of higher education; and
- Provided to the institution an affidavit indicating that the individual will file an application to become a permanent resident at the earliest opportunity the individual is eligible to do so and a willingness to engage in other activities necessary to acquire citizenship; or have been granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) Status by the Department of Homeland Security.

[Senate Bill 6523](#), also known as the “REAL Hope Act” or “Dream Act,” passed the Senate 35-10 and is anticipated to pass the House this week by wide margins.

The Senate also passed [SB 5318](#) on Friday, legislation that would remove the existing one-year waiting period for veterans to be eligible for in-state tuition.

House Higher Education Committee

This week the House Higher Education Committee held public hearings on several bills, most noteworthy was the Committee’s hearing on [House Bill 2626](#), the bill that puts the Roadmap attainment goals in statute measures. Gene Sharratt, the Council’s Executive Director, testified that the value of having high-level statewide goals is that they provide a unifying focal point for all strategies, policies and work geared toward improving educational attainment. Tom Fitzsimmons from the Independent Colleges of Washington and Nova Gattman from the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board also testified in support of the bill. Other groups that signed-in in support of the bill include the Washington Roundtable, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Washington Education Association, and the Bellevue College Office of Student Legislative Affairs.

In addition, the Council also testified in support of [HB 2400](#), concerning mentoring and service learning opportunities in education, due to the bill’s alignment with the Roadmap strategy related to increasing support for all students:

Senate Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education

The Council also signed-in in support of [SB 6092](#) - Concerning credit requirements for high school graduation, during the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee’s public hearing on the measure this week. Similar to HB 2181, the bill is also closely aligned with the Roadmap strategies related to ensuring students are college and career-ready.

Senate Higher Education Committee

The Senate Higher Education Committee began the week with a work session on precollege coursework from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and Central Washington University. The work session was followed by a public hearing on [SB 6083](#), legislation that would authorize the public baccalaureate institutions to use multiple measures to determine whether a student must enroll in a precollege course. The Council testified in support of the measure due to its alignment with Roadmap strategies related to ensuring students are career and college-ready. The Council also testified in support of [SB 6362](#), creating efficiencies for institutions of higher education.

The Senate Higher Education Committee also held a work session on Thursday that examined the cost of attending college, financial aid options, and provided an overview of student loans. Rachelle Sharpe, the Council’s Senior Director of Student Financial Assistance, presented to the committee and was followed by a panel of financial aid administrators from the University of Washington, Saint Martin’s University, Lower Columbia College, and Eastern Washington University.

Bill Tracker: Status of Legislation with Direct Alignment to Roadmap Strategies (as of 2/2/14)

Bill	Title	Status	Sponsor
HB 2626	Educational attainment goals	H Hi Ed	Rep. Seaquist
HB 2185 /SB 6002	Operating sup budget 2014	H Approps / S Ways & Means	Rep. Hunter / Sen. Hill
HB 2181	Career & college ready reqs	H Education	Rep. Lytton
SB 6092	Credits for HS graduation	S EL/K-12	Sen. Litzow
SB 6083	Precollege placement	S Higher Ed	Sen. Kohl-Welles
HB 2285	Dual credit coursework	H Rules R	Rep. Orwall
SHB 2383	Career and college readiness	H Approps Ed	Rep. Reykdal
HB 2396	Running start participation	H Exec Action	Rep. Orwall

SHB 1858/ SSB 5969	Academic credit/military	H 3rd Reading /S Rules 2	Rep. McCoy / Sen. O'Ban
HB 2400	Mentoring & service learning	H Hi Ed	Rep. Walkinshaw