

Mentoring bill passes with wide support in House

Student mentoring legislation that one Republican lawmaker characterized as “a good little bill” passed with wide support in the House on Monday.

EHB 1986 requires Western Washington University (WWU) to create a pilot mentoring program targeting at-risk elementary school students. The program would be developed in partnership with a community or technical college.

Under the bill, the HECB must make grants to participating institutions from the State Work Study Program.

Rep. Bob Hasegawa, D-Seattle, the bill’s prime sponsor, said the legislation will utilize college students who have already navigated the educational system to mentor children who are still “malleable” and have yet to make important life choices.

“Through this peer-mentoring program we’re hoping to fix the leaky pipeline where students are falling out and we’re not getting enough children to think about postsecondary education,” Rep. Hasegawa said.

Rep. Glenn Anderson, R-Fall City, also supported the legislation, noting that it provides for soliciting funds from private foundations to help support the program.

The Senate referred the bill to the Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee, where it is expected to have a public hearing, possibly on March 24.

Senate unanimously approves tuition bill

The Senate version of legislation extending the authority of institutions to set non-resident and graduate tuition was approved by a 44-0 vote in the Senate on Saturday, March 7. The bill does not change the Legislature’s current authority to set tuition rates for resident undergraduate students.

Under current law, the authority given public colleges and universities to set tuition rates for non-resident and graduate students sunsets at the end of the current academic year.

Sen. Derek Kilmer, chair of the Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development committee and one of the bill’s original sponsors, told the Senate Saturday that SSB 5734 provides predictability and enables institutions to maintain program quality. Institutions have not abused the current authority granted by the Legislature, Kilmer said.

The substitute bill extends the authority through the 2014-15 academic year. The bill also specifies that the following year, tuition for full-time students would remain the same, unless changed by the Legislature.

The House Higher Education Committee holds a public hearing on SSB 5734 on Wednesday, March 18.

A weekly report on higher education during the 2009 Legislative Session



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American Indian Scholarship bill moves to House

A bill eliminating a state matching-fund requirement to provide college scholarships for needy students whose education will benefit Native Americans has passed the Senate and was scheduled for a public hearing today in House committee.

[See more financial aid news](#)

SSB 5001 would eliminate a separate trust fund from which money is currently transferred in \$50,000 increments to pay scholarships. Under current law, the money cannot be transferred unless the state money is matched with an equal amount from private sources.

Under the bill, funds could be deposited into the endowment fund without limitation.

The American Indian Endowed Scholarship program benefits needy students with close ties to the Native American community who promise to use their education to benefit Native Americans.

The program annually provides about 15 scholarships ranging up to \$2,000. Students can receive scholarships for up to five years.

Next week's schedule:

- **Tuesday March 17:** Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee. Public hearings: HB 1395, 1312, 1394, SHB 1841. 10 a.m. Senate Hearing Room 3.
- **Tuesday March 17:** House Higher Education Committee. Work session: Online learning and open educational resources. 10 a.m., House Hearing Room D.
- **Wednesday March 18:** House Higher Education Committee. Public hearing: SSB 5734. 1:30 p.m., House Hearing Room D.
- **Wednesday March 18:** Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee. Public hearings: SGA 9010, 9138, E2SHB 2021, SHB 1323, 2SHB 1355, HB 1474. 3:30 p.m. Senate Hearing Room 3.
- **Friday March 20:** House Higher Education Committee. Public hearing: Senate bills referred to committee. 8 a.m., House Hearing Room D.

New student loan program added to financial aid legislation passed this week in House

The financial aid rebranding bill passed the House March 9 with an amendment creating a new higher education loan program to assist students in need of low-cost student loans and related benefits.

The amendment to E2SHB 2021 gives the state Treasurer custody of the loan program and requires the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) to administer it. The HECB's duties would include:

- Assessing needs and targeting benefits to selected groups of students;
- Devising a program that addresses issues such as issuance of low-interest educational loans, repayment obligations, interest rates, and conditional loans forgiven in exchange for service;
- Creating an emergency loan fund for students pursuing long-term state or federal financing;
- Accepting public and private loan-program contributions;
- Publicizing the program;
- Assessing program needs

Another bill amendment passed by the House limits the number of non-resident students receiving support through the State Work Study program to 15 percent of program funding, or a lesser amount if specified in the biennial budget. The provision is similar to one included in SSB 5044, which passed in the Senate Feb. 18 and was scheduled for a committee hearing in the House today.

The rebranding provision of E2SHB 2021 requires the HECB and higher education institutions to promote and label all forms of student financial assistance except federal loans as an opportunity grant.

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.

Bills in Senate Committee:

- [2SHB 1025](#) - Requiring disclosure of certain information relating to higher education course materials.
- [SHB 1128](#) – Changing innovation partnership zone provisions.
- [HB 1156](#) - Creating a preference in the alternative route certification program for veterans and National Guard members.
- [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.
- [2SHB 1355](#) - Establishing the opportunity internship program for high school students.
- [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 1474](#) – Changing border county opportunity program provisions.
- [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.
- [SHB 1898](#)- Setting priorities for higher education capital projects.
- [SHB 1914](#) – Authorizing the financing of higher education institutions' maintenance and operations through the use of certificates of participation.
- [2SHB 1946](#) – Regarding higher education online technology.
- [EHB 1986](#) – Authorizing a peer mentoring pilot program at Western Washington University and a community or technical college.
- [E2SHB 2021](#) – Revitalizing student financial aid.
- [HB 2119](#)- Expanding dual credit opportunities.
- [2SB 2227](#) – Enacting the evergreen jobs act.
- [SGA 9138](#)- Nita Rinehart

Bills in House Rules:

- [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.

Bills in House Committee

- [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 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.
- [SSB 5172](#) – Establishing a University of Washington center for human rights.
- [SSB 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 5410](#) – Regarding the digital learning commons.
- [SB 5502](#) – Establishing the primary care physician conditional tuition waiver program.
- [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.
- [SSB 5734](#) – Making certain current higher education tuition-setting practices permanent.
- [E2SSB 5941](#)- Regarding comprehensive education data improvement systems.

Bills on Senate Floor

- [SSCR 8404](#) – Providing for the 2008-18 state comprehensive plan for workforce training.
- [SGA 9014](#) – Ethelda Burke
- [SGA 9041](#) - Earl Hale

Thursday, March 12 was the last day to consider bills in the house of origin. Bills necessary to implement budgets may be considered later in session.