

House committee hears Senate bill placing work study emphasis in high-demand fields

The House Higher Education Committee on Friday heard testimony on several Senate bills, including one that requires the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) to develop rules encouraging work study placements in high-demand fields.

Substitute Senate Bill 5044 also would establish a 15 percent cap on the amount of the state work study subsidy expended on non-resident students. The biennial budget act could specify a lesser amount.

The original version of the bill eliminated work study participation by non-resident students entirely. The 15 percent cap was added to accommodate institutions and other employers in border counties that offer higher numbers of work study positions to non-residents.

Other higher education bills passed in the Senate and now under consideration by the House:

- **Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5555**, which lays groundwork for a potential statewide lifelong learning account (LiLA) program. LiLAs are portable, employee-owned and employer-matched savings accounts to help working adults pay tuition and other college expenses. The bill requires the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board to establish a steering committee to study such a program and report to the Legislature by Sept. 1, 2010.
- **Substitute Senate Bill 5043**, which requires the Higher Education Coordinating Board to convene a workgroup to develop a plan for a one-stop, web-based portal for college information regarding financial, academic, and career planning, as well as admissions, scholarships, and financial aid. The plan would be submitted to the Legislature by Dec. 1, 2009.

Capital-prioritization bill moves to Senate

By a 95-0 vote, the House on Wednesday approved SHB 1898, which would create a new group to rank four-year institutions' capital projects in a single list for the next biennium.

By Aug. 15 of each even-numbered year, the Office of Financial Management would convene the group, which would consist of representatives from the HECB, the Washington State Economic Development Council, OFM, and the Council of Presidents.

Priorities used to rank the capital projects would be based on criteria such as desired growth in degrees, management of existing assets, and operating and capital budget projections. The prioritized list would be submitted to the Legislature.

The bill's prime sponsor, Rep. Hans Dunshee, D-Snohomish, said the process would be similar to that used by two-year institutions and would give the Legislature a clearer picture of capital priorities.

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Rebranding bill on House calendar

A bill that rebrands the state's student financial assistance programs and requires other significant changes in financial aid was awaiting possible House floor action on Friday.

[See more financial aid news](#)

2SHB 2021 requires the HECB and institutions to label all financial aid programs as an Opportunity Grant.

The bill makes other financial aid changes:

- Phases out the Educational Opportunity Grant over a two-year period;
- Creates a new grant, within the State Need Grant program, that provides grants for place-bound students who have earned associate degrees;
- Restricts eligibility for the State Work Study program; and
- Creates a competitive grant process within the State Work Study program to encourage more placements in high-demand fields.

WWU mentoring bill in Senate

HB 1896, now awaiting floor action in the Senate, 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.

Next week's schedule:

- **Thursday March 12:** Last day to consider bills in house of origin (5 p.m.).
- **Friday March 13:** House Higher Education Committee. Public hearing: Senate bills referred to committee. 8 a.m., House Hearing Room D.

Bill addresses training for providers of health care to developmentally disabled

A bill that encourages institutions to develop professional training projects to improve health-care services for developmentally disabled adults is awaiting action in the Senate Rules Committee.

Subject to the appropriation of funds, SSB 5376 requires the HECB to develop a grant program for institutions to design training projects. Sen. Claudia Kauffman, D-Kent, the bill's prime sponsor, said such training will help medical students better understand the physical, cognitive and emotional differences of developmentally disabled patients.

Senate awaits Snohomish County college bill

The Senate Rules Committee on Tuesday forwarded a bill (SSB 5625) to the full Senate that would establish a new public baccalaureate and graduate-level institution in Snohomish County if it is determined the college would be consistent with a higher-education system design study now getting under way.

This week, the HECB convened the first meeting of a system design study group that will spend the next nine months looking at ways to improve the higher-education delivery system in Washington.

SSB 5625 requires the HECB to submit the study group's findings and recommendations to the Governor and Legislature by Dec. 1, 2009. The new Snohomish County college would be established if the HECB notifies the Legislature by July 1, 2010 that the college is consistent with the design study recommendations.

Previous studies have shown the need for additional college capacity in Snohomish, Island, and Skagit counties in the years ahead.

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 on Floor:

- [2SHB 1025](#) – Requiring disclosure of certain information relating to higher education course materials.
- [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.
- [HB 1898](#) – Setting priorities for higher education capital projects.
- [HB 1986](#) – Authorizing a peer mentoring pilot program at Western Washington University and a community or technical college.
- [2SHB 2021](#) – Revitalizing student financial aid.

House bills in Rules:

- [SHB 1235](#) – Making certain current higher education tuition-setting practices permanent.
- [HB 1487](#) – Regarding resident student classification.
- [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.
- [HB 2118](#) – Convening an advisory committee on tuition policy.
- [HB 2119](#) – Expanding dual credit opportunities.
- [2SB 2227](#) – Enacting the evergreen jobs act.
- [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.

Senate Bills in House

- [SSB 5001](#) – Eliminating the matching fund requirement for the American Indian endowed scholarship program.
- [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 on Floor

- [SSB 5007](#) – Allowing public technical colleges to offer associate transfer degrees.
- [SSB 5276](#) – Eliminating the exclusive authority of the University of Washington and Washington State University to offer certain engineering courses.
- [SSB 5625](#) – Creating a state college in Snohomish County.

Senate bills in Rules:

- [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 5176](#) – Creating a bi-state partnership for teachers of children with visual impairments.

- [SB 5177](#) – Creating a global Asia institute within the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies.
- [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.
- [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 5941](#) – Regarding comprehensive education data improvement systems.
- [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
- [SGA 9138](#) – Nita Rinehart