

House committee recommends budget with amendments affecting higher ed

The House Ways and Means Committee on Tuesday recommended passage of a 2009-11 state budget that contained numerous amendments, several of which relate to higher education.

"I probably am understating the fact that this is not a budget that anyone of us up here would have hoped that we would be voting for today," said Ways & Means Chair Rep. Kelli Linville, D-Bellingham, before the committee voted 13-8 to recommend passage of HB 1244.

Among the bill's more noteworthy higher education amendments:

- Removing all provisions dealing with assumed enrollment levels. It appears this would provide institutions with more flexibility on the number of students admitted and enrolled.
- Directing the SBCTC to allocate the equivalent of 20 FTE student enrollment slots to Olympic College to facilitate development of university centers in the Kitsap region.
- Directing the SBCTC to select one community or technical college to offer an applied baccalaureate program in interior design, subject to approval of the HECB, beginning in January 2010.
- Providing \$5 million to design a science building at UW Bothell.
- Requiring The Evergreen State College to use \$100,000 annually from its base appropriation to operate the labor education and research center.
- Relieving future teachers conditional scholarship program recipients of repayment obligations for up to one year if they can show they tried to find a teaching job but were unable to obtain a position.

Initial reaction to Governor's tuition-hike proposal: necessary, under the circumstances

Gov. Chris Gregoire's proposal this week to allow 14 percent annual tuition increases at four-year institutions, and up to 7 percent increases at community and technical colleges, was seen by some as an unpleasant, but necessary solution to the higher-education funding crisis.

"Few lawmakers want to force struggling students to pay a big increase in a down economy," **The Seattle Times** said in an editorial Thursday. "The unacceptable alternative, however, is to greatly diminish the number of students attending these schools at a time of peak interest and demographic demand." [Read more.](#)

"Without the tuition hikes the necessary cuts would overwhelm the system, and the Legislature will be powerless to do more than make small adjustments in intensity," said a **Wenatchee World** editorial. "The work of years, building credible institutions, would be undone in days. Recovery would take years." [Read more.](#)

A weekly report on higher education during the 2009 Legislative Session



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Senate committee blesses bill creating mentoring program

The Senate Ways & Means Committee on Monday sent to the Rules Committee a bill creating a pilot mentoring program for at-risk elementary school children.

[See more financial aid news](#)

The HECB continues to support the bill, even though the committee eliminated a provision directing the HECB to award program grants from the State Work Study (SWS) Program.

Under EHB 1986, Western Washington University would create the pilot mentoring program in partnership with a community or technical college. College students would be recruited to serve as mentors for the at-risk children.

The bill passed by the House directed the HECB to make SWS grants to participating institutions, but that language was removed by the Senate committee. The current Senate version would require the program to be implemented within existing institutional resources.

Most workforce graduates employed in related field, WTECB studies show

Bryan Wilson, Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (WTECB) deputy director, gave a report to the House Higher Education Committee on Thursday on evaluation and assessment efforts being conducted by his agency.

Wilson said follow-up studies with those who have completed workforce training programs indicate 70 percent are employed in a field related to their training and an additional 11 percent are self-employed in a related field.

Workforce training programs constitute the 'next step' for the overwhelming majority of citizens who complete ESL and Basic Education programs, Wilson said.

Next week's schedule:

- **Friday April 17:** Last day to consider opposite house bills (5 p.m.) (except initiatives and alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session).

Aerospace institute bill moves out of House committee

House Bill 2318 would establish a new, multi-institutional education, training and certification center for Snohomish County focusing on jobs, growth, and innovation in the aerospace industry.

The bill received the approval of the House Higher Education Committee Thursday.

The Washington Institute of Aerospace Technology and Manufacturing Studies would house education, research and job-skills training programs to meet the needs of the aerospace industry sector and its workers. Programs would include aerospace technology, manufacturing, marketing, labor leadership business management, human resources and international studies.

The institute would receive funding through public-private partnerships to support its education, training and research activities. The bill as originally written gave the Higher Education Coordinating Board oversight for the institute. However a striker amendment approved by the committee transferred authority to CTED and eliminated the requirement that a report on the institute be prepared for the Legislature by December 2009.

The bill indicates the institute would serve as a forum for collaboration among the state's aerospace industry, labor, the HECB, the SBCTC, the WTECB, higher education institutions (including independent, private and career and technical schools).

Meanwhile, Gov. Chris Gregoire this week proposed legislation to develop a Washington Council on Aerospace to maintain the state's competitive edge in the aerospace industry. Gregoire also announced she is creating an aerospace subcommittee to ensure the council's agenda moves forward.

Bills delivered to Governor:

- [SHB 1128](#) – Changing innovation partnership zone provisions.
- [SHB 1328](#) – Allowing public technical colleges to offer degrees that prepare students to transfer to certain bachelor degree programs.
- [HB 1394](#) - Changing the timeline for the state comprehensive plan for workforce training and education.
- [ESHB 1694](#) – Addressing fiscal matters for the 2007-2009 biennium.
- [SSB 5043](#) - Convening a work group to develop a single, coordinated student access portal for college information.
- [ESSB 5460](#) – Reducing the administrative cost of state government during the 2007-2009 and 2009-2022 fiscal biennia.

Bills on Senate Floor:

- [2SHB 1025](#) - Requiring disclosure of certain information relating to higher education course materials.
- [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.
- [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 1943](#) - Requiring recommendations for preparation and professional development for the early learning and school-age program workforce.
- [HB 2119](#)- Expanding dual credit opportunities.
- [E2SB 2227](#) – Enacting the evergreen jobs act.
- [SGA 9138](#)- Nita Rinehart
- [SGA 9015](#) – Ethelda Burke
- [SGA 9041](#) – Earl Hale

Bills in Senate Rules:

- [2SHB 1355](#) - Establishing the opportunity internship program for high school students.
- [HB 1487](#) - Regarding resident student classification.

- [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.

Bills on House Floor:

- [SB 5173](#) - Authorizing the regional universities to confer honorary doctorate degrees.
- [SSB 5177](#) - Creating a global Asia institute within the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies.
- [SB 5554](#) – Regarding the job skills program.
- [SSB 5776](#) – Regarding student fees, charges and assessments.
- [SSCR 8404](#) – Providing for the 2008-18 state comprehensive plan for workforce training.

Bills in House Rules:

- [SHB 1216](#) – Adopting a 2009-11 capital budget.
- [SHB 1244](#) – Making 2009-11 operating appropriations.
- [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.
- [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 5044](#) - Changing work study provisions
- [SSB 5172](#) – Establishing a University of Washington center for human rights.
- [SSB 5048](#) - Providing for coordination of workforce and economic development.
- [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.
- [ESSB 5555](#) – Regarding lifelong learning accounts.
- [E2SSB 5809](#) – Revising unemployment compensation and workforce training provisions.
- [E2SSB 5941](#)- Regarding comprehensive education data improvement systems.