

## Legislators review proposed budgets

The House and Senate this week were considering the committee-chair versions of the 2009-11 state budget. The two versions presented contrasting responses to the state's fiscal crisis, with resulting impacts on higher education over the next biennium.

The proposed budgets drew strong reaction from some who fear that significant cuts in higher-education programs will make it harder to achieve long-term goals of increasing student access and enhancing the state economy.

The Senate's budget version was generally seen as having a less severe impact on higher education than the House version.

The Senate proposed a 2.5 percent reduction in enrollment, while the House proposal called for maintaining enrollments at the 2008-09 level. The Senate would maintain the current 7 percent annual cap on resident undergraduate tuition increases, while the House version would allow a 10 percent increase.

Under the Senate proposal, public-four year institutions would operate with 11 percent less revenue than this year, compared to 15 percent in the House version.

Community and technical colleges would see a slight enrollment increase under both committee-chair budgets. Revenue would drop 7 and 11 percent under the Senate and House versions, respectively.

[Read the HECB's comparison of the proposed House and Senate budgets.](#)

### **Reaction to the budget proposals:**

- "Cuts of the magnitude proposed by the House and Senate would negatively impact the quality of education for Washington citizens for years to come." – **HECB Executive Director Ann Daley and Board Chair Jesus Hernandez.** [Read more.](#)
- "The extraordinary budget cuts to higher education under discussion this week will deeply impact the very people who will create a recovery for the state of Washington in the coming years – the college educated." – **WSU President Elson Floyd.** [Read more.](#)
- "If the Senate and House proposals were passed in their present forms, we would see severe impacts across our University community." – **UW President Mark Emmert.** [Read more.](#)
- "There is no Washington state precedent for this budget crisis and there [is] no regular business process to absorb cuts this deep. Business-as-usual isn't going to work; it's going to take new ideas, collaboration and determination." – **CWU President James Gaudino.** [Read more.](#)

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**A weekly report on  
higher education  
during the 2009  
Legislative Session**



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### **What's in the news:**

**The Columbian:**  
[Lowered hopes for  
higher education](#)

**Seattlepi.com:** [Higher-  
education funding—it's  
fundamental](#)

**KING TV:** [Emmert—UW  
could lose 1/3 of state  
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## Senate, House budgets maintain SNG thresholds

The proposed committee-chair budgets released by the House and Senate this week provide similar approaches to continued funding of the State Need Grant (SNG) program.

[See more financial aid news](#)

Both budgets:

- Continue to fund eligible students up to the 70 percent median family income threshold.
- Continue funding for the lowest-income students between 0-50 percent median family incomes with the full SNG award.
- Continue the Less-Than-Halftime pilot program at \$500,000 per year.
- Keep pace with tuition and fee increases.
- Freeze private four-year SNG awards at the 2008-09 award amount.
- Take into account an offset to the SNG awards through the non-tuition cost portion of the federal stimulus package Pell increase.

The two budgets also differ in two notable respects. The House proposes a higher tuition and fee increase, and therefore funds SNG at a higher level. Also, the House proposes funding a different percent of full-time SNG award for every 5 percent increment between 50-75 percent of Median Family Income (MFI), while the Senate keeps the 51-65 percent MFI ranges at 75 percent of a full-time SNG award.

## Senate proposal suspends CBS payments, maintains commitment

The Senate's proposed 2009-11 budget suspends advance payments to the College Bound Scholarship Program, while noting that the state's commitment to the program is "guaranteed."

The Senate version goes on to say that the state's commitment to College Bounds students "will be fulfilled and is not dependent upon nor diminished by this action."

The House version of the budget contributes a \$7.4 million prepayment to the College Bound account for 2009-11 biennium. An identical "down payment" was provided when the Legislature created the program in 2007.

## House passes access-portal bill and sends to Governor

The House on Monday voted 97-0 to pass SSB 5043, which directs the HECB to establish a work group to develop a plan for a web-based portal that would provide comprehensive student information and resources related to college planning.

The HECB supported the legislation, which advances a recommendation in the state's Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education for a similar web-based resource.

Rep. Deb Wallace, D-Vancouver, chair of the House Higher Education Committee, said the legislation would allow the HECB "to plan for a one-stop portal so that our students will have better online information access."

Rep. Glenn Anderson, R-Fall City, said such a resource would provide "a storefront for prospective students to be able to assess, evaluate and investigate what their options and opportunities are."

Under the legislation, the HECB would provide a final report of the work group, along with proposed enabling legislative and administrative solutions, to the Legislature by December 1, 2009.

## Next week's schedule:

- **Monday April 6:** Last day to read in opposite house committee reports from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
- **Monday April 6:** House Ways & Means Committee. Possible public hearing: bills referred to committee. Possible executive session: Bills previously heard in committee. 8 a.m., House Hearing Room A.
- **Monday April 6:** Senate Ways & Means Committee. Public hearing: To be announced. Senate Hearing Room 4.
- **Monday April 6:** Senate Ways & Means Committee. Work session: Continuation of 1:30 p.m. hearing. Possible executive session. Senate Hearing Room 4.
- **Thursday April 9:** House Higher Education Committee. Work session: How well is Washington doing in educating and training its workers for the future. 9 a.m., House Hearing Room D.

## Bills delivered to Governor:

- [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:

- [SHB 1128](#) – Changing innovation partnership zone provisions.
- [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 1394](#) - Changing the timeline for the state comprehensive plan for workforce training and education.
- [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.
- [E2SB 2227](#) – Enacting the evergreen jobs act.
- [SGA 9138](#)- Nita Rinehart
- [SGA 9014](#) – Ethelda Burke
- [SGA 9041](#) - Earl Hale

## Bills in Senate Rules:

- [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 1395](#) - Clarifying terms for workforce and economic development.
- [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.

## Bills in Senate Committee:

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

## Bills on House Floor:

- [SB 5173](#) - Authorizing the regional universities to confer honorary doctorate degrees.
- [SSCR 8404](#) – Providing for the 2008-18 state comprehensive plan for workforce training.

## 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.
- [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 5048](#) - Providing for coordination of workforce and economic development.
- [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.
- [SB 5554](#) – Regarding the job skills program.
- [SSB 5776](#) – Regarding student fees, charges and assessments.

## Bills in House Committee

- [HB 1216](#) – Adopting a 2009-11 capital budget.
- [SSB 5044](#) - Changing work study provisions
- [SSB 5172](#) – Establishing a University of Washington center for human rights.
- [SSB 5410](#) – Regarding the digital learning commons.
- [ESSB 5555](#) – Regarding lifelong learning accounts.
- [SSB 5734](#) – Making certain current higher education tuition-setting practices permanent.
- [E2SSB 5809](#) – Revising unemployment compensation and workforce training provisions.
- [E2SSB 5941](#)- Regarding comprehensive education data improvement systems.