
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5555

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Senators Kilmer, Shin, King, Marr, Jarrett, McAuliffe, Hobbs, Tom, and Kohl-Welles)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/09.

1 AN ACT Relating to lifelong learning accounts; adding new sections
2 to chapter 28C.18 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Lifelong learning accounts are portable
5 employee-owned and employer-matched savings accounts dedicated to
6 covering the cost of tuition, fees, books, supplies, and equipment for
7 working adults seeking education and training to improve their position
8 in the workforce. The legislature finds that lifelong learning
9 accounts allow employers and workers to coinvest in their futures. The
10 legislature further finds that, combined with free career advising,
11 lifelong learning accounts can make a significant difference in the
12 lives of workers and their families, as well as for employers in need
13 of well-trained workers. The legislature intends to facilitate the
14 creating of lifelong learning accounts for workers in the state of
15 Washington.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18 RCW
17 to read as follows:

18 (1) The board shall establish a state lifelong learning account

1 steering committee. The steering committee shall consist of
2 representatives from: (a) The association of Washington business; (b)
3 the higher education coordinating board; (c) the state board for
4 community and technical colleges; (d) the department of community,
5 trade, and economic development; (e) the Washington state hospital
6 association; (f) the Northwest career colleges federation; (g) the
7 Pacific mountain workforce development council; (h) the state and
8 regional AFL-CIO and SEIU; and (i) other business and labor
9 representatives.

10 (2) The steering committee shall: (a) Develop a policy framework
11 to establish a statewide lifelong learning account program; (b)
12 identify technical and budget issues along with recommendations on how
13 to resolve them; (c) study methods for continuing outreach to workers,
14 employers, and foundations, willing to participate in and fund lifelong
15 learning accounts; (d) explore career advising options including online
16 tools; and (e) design a performance accountability system.

17 (3) The steering committee shall receive staff and logistical
18 support from the board.

19 (4) The steering committee shall report to the appropriate
20 committees of the legislature by September 1, 2010, and every two years
21 thereafter, regarding the numbers and characteristics of participating
22 workers and employers, the status of outreach efforts, and other
23 appropriate performance outcome measures identified by the steering
24 committee.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18 RCW
26 to read as follows:

27 The board may solicit, accept, receive, and administer federal
28 funds or private funds, in trust or otherwise, and contract with
29 foundations or with for-profit or nonprofit organizations to support
30 the establishment of the state lifelong learning account program.

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