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SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1355

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

**By** House Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Representatives Probst, Quall, Kessler, Sullivan, Wallace, Maxwell, Rolfes, Springer, Green, Jacks, Carlyle, Kenney, Ormsby, Sequist, Lias, Sells, Priest, Dammeier, Hunt, Hudgins, Morrell, Van De Wege, Moeller, Chase, Conway, Goodman, Driscoll, Simpson, Santos, and Kelley)

READ FIRST TIME 03/03/09.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the opportunity internship program  
2 for high school students; amending RCW 28B.92.030, 28B.92.080, and  
3 28B.92.110; adding new sections to chapter 28C.18 RCW; adding a new  
4 section to chapter 28B.92 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that moving low-  
7 income high school students efficiently through a progression of career  
8 exploration, internships or preapprenticeships in high-demand  
9 occupations, and completion of postsecondary education benefits these  
10 students by increasing the relevance of their high school education,  
11 increasing their connection to the working world, accelerating their  
12 entry into a high-demand occupation, and increasing their earnings and  
13 opportunities.

14 (2) The legislature further finds that in a difficult economy,  
15 youth unemployment rates increase sharply. Providing paid internships  
16 and preapprenticeships to high school students creates not only an  
17 immediate short-term economic stimulus in local communities, but also  
18 creates the potential to sustain that economic recovery by making

1 students better prepared for postsecondary education and employment in  
2 the types of occupations that will generate economic growth over the  
3 long term.

4 (3) The legislature further finds that moving students efficiently  
5 through secondary and postsecondary education reduces state  
6 expenditures by improving on-time graduation and postsecondary  
7 retention and increases state revenues by providing for graduates with  
8 higher lifelong earnings and taxpaying potential.

9 (4) Employers and local economies benefit from the development of  
10 a long-term relationship with potential employees and a more consistent  
11 pipeline of skilled workers into the occupations for which they are  
12 having the most trouble finding skilled workers.

13 (5) Therefore the legislature intends to provide incentives for  
14 local consortia of employers, labor organizations, educational  
15 institutions, and workforce and economic development councils to use  
16 existing funds to build educational and employment pipelines to high-  
17 demand occupations for low-income high school students.

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

20 (1) The opportunity internship program is created under sections 2  
21 through 6 of this act. The purpose of the program is to provide  
22 incentives for opportunity internship consortia to use existing  
23 resources to build educational and employment pipelines to high-demand  
24 occupations in targeted industries for low-income high school students.  
25 Three types of incentives are provided through the program:

26 (a) Each opportunity internship graduate shall be eligible for up  
27 to one year of financial assistance for postsecondary education as  
28 provided in section 8 of this act;

29 (b) Each opportunity internship graduate who completes a  
30 postsecondary program of study shall receive a job interview with an  
31 employer participating in an opportunity internship consortium that has  
32 agreed to provide such interviews; and

33 (c) For each opportunity internship graduate who completes a  
34 postsecondary program of study, obtains employment in a high-demand  
35 occupation that pays a starting salary or wages of not less than thirty  
36 thousand dollars per year, and remains employed for at least six

1 months, the participating opportunity internship consortium shall be  
2 eligible to receive an incentive payment as provided in section 6 of  
3 this act.

4 (2) The opportunity internship program shall be administered by the  
5 board and the board may adopt rules to implement the program.

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

8 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in  
9 this section apply throughout sections 2 through 6 of this act.

10 (1) "High-demand occupation" means an occupation with a substantial  
11 number of current or projected employment opportunities.

12 (2) "Low-income high school student" means a student who is  
13 enrolled in grades ten, eleven, or twelve in a public high school and  
14 who qualifies for federal free or reduced-price meals. If a student  
15 qualifies at the time the student begins participating in the  
16 opportunity internship program, the student remains eligible even if  
17 the student does not receive free or reduced-price meals thereafter.  
18 To participate in the program, the student must remain enrolled in high  
19 school until the student receives a high school diploma.

20 (3) "Opportunity internship consortium" means a local consortium  
21 formed for the purpose of participating in the opportunity internship  
22 program and which may be composed of a local workforce development  
23 council, economic development council, area high schools, community or  
24 technical colleges, apprenticeship councils, preapprenticeship programs  
25 such as running start for the trades, private vocational schools  
26 licensed under chapter 28C.10 RCW, public and private four-year  
27 institutions of higher education, employers in targeted industries, and  
28 labor organizations.

29 (4) "Opportunity internship graduate" means a low-income high  
30 school student who successfully completes an opportunity internship  
31 program and graduates from high school.

32 (5) "Postsecondary program of study" means an undergraduate or  
33 graduate certificate, apprenticeship, or degree program.

34 (6) "Preapprenticeship" means a program of at least ninety hours  
35 and not more than one hundred eighty hours in length that provides  
36 practical experience, education, preparation, and the development of  
37 skills that would be beneficial for entry into state-approved

1 apprenticeship programs, including but not limited to construction  
2 industry structure and the construction process; orientation to state-  
3 approved apprenticeship; tools of the various trades and safe handling  
4 of power tools; and industry standards of safety, responsibility, and  
5 craft excellence.

6 (7) "Targeted industry" means a business or industry identified by  
7 a local workforce development council as having high-demand occupations  
8 that require candidates to have completed a postsecondary program of  
9 study.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18 RCW  
11 to read as follows:

12 (1) Opportunity internship consortia may apply to the board to  
13 offer an opportunity internship program.

14 (a) The board, in consultation with the Washington state  
15 apprenticeship and training council, may select those consortia that  
16 demonstrate the strongest commitment and readiness to implement a high  
17 quality opportunity internship program for low-income high school  
18 students. The board shall place a priority on consortia with  
19 demonstrated experience working with similar populations of students  
20 and demonstrated capacity to assist a large number of students through  
21 the progression of internship or preapprenticeship, high school  
22 graduation, postsecondary education, and retention in a high-demand  
23 occupation. The board shall place a priority on programs that  
24 emphasize secondary career and technical education and nonbaccalaureate  
25 postsecondary education; however, programs that target four-year  
26 postsecondary degrees are eligible to participate.

27 (b) The board shall enter into a contract with each consortium  
28 selected to participate in the program. No more than ten consortia per  
29 year shall be selected to participate in the program, and to the extent  
30 possible, the board shall assure a geographic distribution of consortia  
31 in regions across the state emphasizing a variety of targeted  
32 industries. Each consortium may select no more than one hundred low-  
33 income high school students per year to participate in the program.

34 (2) Under the terms of an opportunity internship program contract,  
35 an opportunity internship consortium shall commit to the following  
36 activities which shall be conducted using existing federal, state,  
37 local, or private funds available to the consortium:

1 (a) Identify high-demand occupations in targeted industries for  
2 which opportunity internships or preapprenticeships shall be developed  
3 and provided;

4 (b) Develop and implement the components of opportunity  
5 internships, including paid or unpaid internships or preapprenticeships  
6 of at least ninety hours in length in high-demand occupations with  
7 employers in the consortium, mentoring and guidance for students who  
8 participate in the program, assistance with applications for  
9 postsecondary programs and financial aid, and a guarantee of a job  
10 interview with a participating employer for all opportunity internship  
11 graduates who successfully complete a postsecondary program of study;

12 (c) Once the internship or preapprenticeship components have been  
13 developed, conduct outreach efforts to inform low-income high school  
14 students about high-demand occupations, the opportunity internship  
15 program, options for postsecondary programs of study, and the  
16 incentives and opportunities provided to students who participate in  
17 the program;

18 (d) Obtain appropriate documentation of the low-income status of  
19 students who participate in the program;

20 (e) Maintain communication with opportunity internship graduates of  
21 the consortium who enroll in postsecondary programs of study; and

22 (f) Submit an annual report to the board on the progress of and  
23 participation in the opportunity internship program of the consortium.

24 (3) Opportunity internship consortia are encouraged to:

25 (a) Provide paid opportunity internships or preapprenticeships,  
26 including during the summer months to encourage students to stay  
27 enrolled in high school;

28 (b) Work with high schools to offer opportunity internships as  
29 approved worksite learning experiences where students can earn high  
30 school credit;

31 (c) Designate the local workforce development council as fiscal  
32 agent for the opportunity internship program contract;

33 (d) Work with area high schools to incorporate the opportunity  
34 internship program into comprehensive guidance and counseling programs  
35 such as the navigation 101 program; and

36 (e) Coordinate the opportunity internship program with other  
37 workforce development and postsecondary education programs, including

1 opportunity grants, the college bound scholarship program, federal  
2 workforce investment act initiatives, and college access challenge  
3 grants.

4 (4) The board shall seek federal funds that may be used to support  
5 the opportunity internship program, including providing the incentive  
6 payments under section 6 of this act.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18 RCW  
8 to read as follows:

9 On an annual basis, each opportunity internship consortium shall  
10 provide the board with a list of the opportunity internship graduates  
11 from the consortium. The board shall compile the lists from all  
12 consortia and shall notify the higher education coordinating board of  
13 the eligibility of each graduate on the lists to receive a state need  
14 grant under chapter 28B.92 RCW if the graduate enrolls in a  
15 postsecondary program of study within one year of high school  
16 graduation.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18 RCW  
18 to read as follows:

19 (1) On an annual basis, each opportunity internship consortium  
20 shall provide the board with a list of the opportunity internship  
21 graduates from the consortium who have completed a postsecondary  
22 program of study, obtained employment in a high-demand occupation that  
23 pays a starting salary or wages of not less than thirty thousand  
24 dollars per year, and remained employed for at least six months.

25 (2) The board shall verify the information on the lists from each  
26 consortium. Subject to funds appropriated or otherwise available for  
27 this purpose, the board shall allocate to each consortium an incentive  
28 payment of two thousand dollars for each graduate on the consortium's  
29 list. In the event that insufficient funds are appropriated to provide  
30 a full payment, the board shall prorate payments across all consortia  
31 and shall notify the governor and the legislature of the amount of the  
32 shortfall.

33 (3) Opportunity internship consortia shall use the incentive  
34 payments to continue operating opportunity internship programs.

1       **Sec. 7.** RCW 28B.92.030 and 2004 c 275 s 35 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       As used in this chapter:

4       (1) "Institution or institutions of higher education" means:

5       (a) Any public university, college, community college, or technical  
6 college operated by the state of Washington or any political  
7 subdivision thereof; or

8       (b) Any other university, college, school, or institute in the  
9 state of Washington offering instruction beyond the high school level  
10 which is a member institution of an accrediting association recognized  
11 by rule of the board for the purposes of this section: PROVIDED, That  
12 any institution, branch, extension or facility operating within the  
13 state of Washington which is affiliated with an institution operating  
14 in another state must be a separately accredited member institution of  
15 any such accrediting association, or a branch of a member institution  
16 of an accrediting association recognized by rule of the board for  
17 purposes of this section, that is eligible for federal student  
18 financial aid assistance and has operated as a nonprofit college or  
19 university delivering on-site classroom instruction for a minimum of  
20 twenty consecutive years within the state of Washington, and has an  
21 annual enrollment of at least seven hundred full-time equivalent  
22 students: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no institution of higher education  
23 shall be eligible to participate in a student financial aid program  
24 unless it agrees to and complies with program rules and regulations  
25 adopted pursuant to RCW 28B.92.150.

26       (2) "Financial aid" means loans and/or grants to needy students  
27 enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a student at institutions of  
28 higher education.

29       (3) "Needy student" means a post high school student of an  
30 institution of higher education who demonstrates to the board the  
31 financial inability, either through the student's parents, family  
32 and/or personally, to meet the total cost of board, room, books, and  
33 tuition and incidental fees for any semester or quarter. "Needy  
34 student" also means an opportunity internship graduate as defined by  
35 section 3 of this act who enrolls in a postsecondary program of study  
36 as defined in section 3 of this act within one year of high school  
37 graduation.

1 (4) "Disadvantaged student" means a post high school student who by  
2 reason of adverse cultural, educational, environmental, experiential,  
3 familial or other circumstances is unable to qualify for enrollment as  
4 a full time student in an institution of higher education, who would  
5 otherwise qualify as a needy student, and who is attending an  
6 institution of higher education under an established program designed  
7 to qualify the student for enrollment as a full time student.

8 (5) "Board" means the higher education coordinating board.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.92 RCW  
10 to read as follows:

11 (1) The board shall work with institutions of higher education to  
12 assure that the institutions are aware of the eligibility of  
13 opportunity internship graduates for an award under this chapter.

14 (2) If an opportunity internship graduate enrolls within one year  
15 of high school graduation in a postsecondary program of study in an  
16 institution of higher education, including in an apprenticeship program  
17 with related and supplemental instruction provided through an  
18 institution of higher education, the graduate is eligible to receive a  
19 state need grant for up to one year. The graduate shall not be  
20 required to be enrolled on at least a half-time basis. The related and  
21 supplemental instruction provided to a graduate through an  
22 apprenticeship program shall not be required to lead to a degree or  
23 certificate.

24 (3) Except for the eligibility criteria for an opportunity  
25 internship graduate that are provided under this section, other rules  
26 pertaining to award of a state need grant apply.

27 (4) Nothing in this section precludes an opportunity internship  
28 graduate from being eligible to receive additional state need grants  
29 after the one-year grant provided in this section if the graduate meets  
30 other criteria as a needy or disadvantaged student.

31 **Sec. 9.** RCW 28B.92.080 and 2007 c 404 s 1 are each amended to read  
32 as follows:

33 Except for opportunity internship graduates whose eligibility is  
34 provided under section 8 of this act, for a student to be eligible for  
35 a state need grant a student must:



1 (1) Be a "needy student" or "disadvantaged student" as determined  
2 by the board in accordance with RCW 28B.92.030 (3) and (4)~~((-))~~i

3 (2) Have been domiciled within the state of Washington for at least  
4 one year~~((-))~~i

5 (3) Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment on at least a half-time  
6 basis at an institution of higher education in Washington as defined in  
7 RCW 28B.92.030(1)~~((-))~~i

8 (4) Until June 30, 2011, to the extent funds are specifically  
9 appropriated for this purpose, and subject to any terms and conditions  
10 specified in the omnibus appropriations act, be enrolled or accepted  
11 for enrollment for at least three quarter credits or the equivalent  
12 semester credits at an institution of higher education in Washington as  
13 defined in RCW 28B.92.030(1)~~((-))~~i; and

14 (5) Have complied with all the rules ~~((and regulations))~~ adopted by  
15 the board for the administration of this chapter.

16 **Sec. 10.** RCW 28B.92.110 and 2004 c 275 s 40 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18 A state financial aid recipient under this chapter shall apply the  
19 award toward the cost of tuition, room, board, books, and fees at the  
20 institution of higher education attended. An opportunity internship  
21 graduate who enters an apprenticeship program may use the award for the  
22 costs of related and supplemental instruction provided through an  
23 institution of higher education, tools, and other costs associated with  
24 the apprenticeship program.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** (1) The workforce training and education  
26 coordinating board shall conduct an outcome evaluation of opportunity  
27 internship programs. At a minimum, the analysis shall examine the  
28 financial benefits of on-time graduation, youth employment while in  
29 high school, postsecondary education enrollment and completion, and  
30 adult employment in high-demand occupations compared to the local and  
31 state costs of the programs.

32 (2) The board shall submit a preliminary analysis to the governor  
33 and the education and higher education committees of the legislature by  
34 December 1, 2012, and a final analysis by December 1, 2014.

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