
HOUSE BILL 2626

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Representatives Seaquist, Haler, Reykdal, Gregerson, Pollet, and Moscoso

Read first time 01/22/14. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing statewide educational attainment
2 goals; creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that increasing
5 educational attainment is vital to the well-being of Washingtonians and
6 critical to the health of the state's economy. Education opens doors
7 to gainful employment, higher wages, increased job benefits, improved
8 physical health, and increased civic engagement. Educated workers who
9 are capable of competing for high-demand jobs in today's global economy
10 sustain existing employers and attract new businesses. These
11 individuals with competitive higher education credentials directly
12 contribute to the state's economic growth and vitality.

13 (2) The legislature finds that workforce and labor market
14 projections estimate that by 2020 the vast majority of jobs in
15 Washington will require at least a high school diploma or equivalent
16 and seventy percent of those jobs will also require some postsecondary
17 education.

18 (3) The legislature finds that current levels of educational
19 attainment are inadequate to address the educational needs of the

1 state. In 2013, eighty-nine percent of Washington adults ages twenty-
2 five to forty-four had a high school diploma or equivalent, and less
3 than fifty percent of Washington adults ages twenty-five to forty-four
4 have a postsecondary credential.

5 (4) The legislature recognizes that one of the most important
6 duties of the student achievement council is to propose educational
7 attainment goals to the governor and legislature and develop a ten-year
8 roadmap to achieve those goals, to be updated every two years.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Following recommendations in the higher
10 education ten-year roadmap in RCW 28B.77.003 and 28B.77.020, the
11 legislature declares that the statewide educational attainment goals
12 required to meet the societal and economic needs of the future are as
13 follows:

14 (1) All adults in Washington ages twenty-five to forty-four will
15 have a high school diploma or equivalent by 2023; and

16 (2) At least seventy percent of Washington adults ages twenty-five
17 to forty-four will have a postsecondary credential by 2023.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires July 1, 2016.

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