

Legislative Update

Week 9

House of Origin Cutoff

The deadline to consider bills in the House of Origin was March 11. Unless bills are considered “Necessary to Implement the Budget,” all bills that did not pass out of their House of origin died.

State Need Grant Minimum GPA Proposal Did Not Pass Out of Senate

[SSB5547](#), sponsored by Senator Bailey, did not pass out of the Senate. The proposal would have placed a minimum GPA in statute and increased it to 2.25 for initial renewal and 2.5 GPA for subsequent renewals with special provisions to accommodate The Evergreen State College, which does not award GPAs.

[SB 5638](#), sponsored by Senator Hasegawa, passed the Senate and has been referred to the House Higher Education Committee. Under the bill, students who are enrolled or accepted for enrollment for at least three quarter credits, or the equivalent semester hours, in a qualifying higher education program are eligible for the State Need Grant. This has been directed in budget for the last two biennia and this change would make the eligibility permanent.

Residency for Veterans for the Purpose of Tuition

Both companion bills in the House and Senate related to veterans residency [E2SHB 1825](#) (Kilduff) and [SSB 5355](#) (Bailey) passed their houses of origin and have been referred to the opposite chamber. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs had approved both versions for compliance with Section 702 of the Choice Act of 2014.

Dual Credit

The dual credit bill proposal [E2SHB1546](#) passed out of the House with two amendments.

1. One amendment offered by Rep. Reykdal “removes an extraneous reference to smarter balanced practice and training assessments in the intent section.”
2. The other offered by Rep. Orwall does the following:
 - Adds a null and void clause (related to provisions clearly delineating between College in the High School (CHS) and Running Start (RS)) that prohibits RS courses from being offered in the high school if the CHS per-credit subsidies are not funded by June 30, 2015.
 - Regardless of the null and void, retains changes found in the underlying second substitute regarding: adding the Student Achievement Council to the dual credit rulemaking group; dual credit notification to ninth and tenth graders; eligibility of tenth graders for CHS; allowing Guaranteed Education Tuition credits to be used to pay for CHS and RS; and CHS credit recognition.

Medical Program Offerings

[SHB 1559](#) and Senate companion [SSB5487](#) each passed out of their respective chambers. The bills provide that Washington State University (WSU) may offer and teach medicine and forestry as major lines of study, and authorize the Board of Regents at WSU to establish, operate, and maintain a school of medicine.

Tuition Proposals

The Tuition bill, sponsored by Senator Braun [ESSB95954](#), which would reduce tuition among other provisions, passed off the Senate floor. Please see the link to the bill page for a full summary of provisions.

The Senate adopted a striking amendment (Braun) and an amendment to the striking amendment (Cleveland), making the following changes:

1. In relation to tuition reductions:
 - Reduces tuition in two phases for the first and second year of the biennium as follows - Specifies that in FY 2016, the budget shall set the tuition operating fee between the current 2014-15 academic year levels and 14% of state average wage for UW/WSU, 10% for the regional universities, and 6% for the SBCTC.
 - For FY 2017, the tuition operating fee is 14% of the state average wage for UW/WSU, 10% for the regional universities, and 6% for the SBCTC. Clarifies that the total payout value of each GET account on the effective date of this section shall not be decreased or diluted as a result of the bill's change in tuition policy.
2. In relation to the GET program:
 - Provides the GET committee and governing body flexibility to make one-time adjustments each year based on the potential that the tuition operating fee may be different in FY 2016 from FY 2017. Eliminates the null & void clause. FISCAL IMPACT Analysis of Senate Committee Services: Cost ranges between \$112M and \$232M depending on whether the budget fully funds FY 2016 or keeps tuition at 2014-15 levels.
 - And the amendment to the striking amendment clarifies that the GET governing body and committee allow current account holders to redeem the same dollar value in a year as they were able to do prior to the tuition policy change.

There are some similarities and differences between SSB5954 and the OFM-request bill sponsored by Rep. Haler that passed the House

[SHB1696](#):

- Returns tuition-setting authority for resident undergraduate students at public baccalaureate institutions to the Legislature to set a cap in the operating budget.
- Removes statutory authority for differential tuition.
- Provides that any institution that exercised tuition-setting authority above certain levels must continue financial aid mitigation.
- Adds additional income brackets to the annual reports required by four-year institutions that raise tuition beyond the levels assumed in the operating budget.

- Repeals certain provisions as follows:
 - The requirement for OFM to report annually the total per-student funding level and undergraduate tuition that each represent the sixtieth percentile of funding and tuition for similar institutions of higher education in the Global Challenge states.
 - The requirement for public baccalaureate institutions to negotiate institutional performance plans with the OFM.
 - The requirement that colleges and universities must collaborate with student associations to make every effort to communicate the American Opportunity Tax Credit and other credits to students and report on the effectiveness of these methods.

Updated WSAC bill tracker following House of Origin cutoff:

Bill ID	Bill Description	Bill Status	Hearing	Sponsor	Agency Position
Affordability, Tuition, & Higher Ed Planning					
SHB 1238	Concerning affordable tuition planning.	S Higher Ed	3/17 PH	Pollet	Support
SHB 1696	Modifying provisions related to tuition setting authority at public institutions of higher education.	S Higher Ed	3/17 PH	Haler	No position
ESSB 5954	Reducing tuition.	S Passed 3rd		Braun	With Concerns
Budget					
SHB 1105	Making 2015 supplemental operating appropriations.	C 3 L 15		Hunter	No position
Dual Credit					
SHB 1031	Expanding participation in college in the high school programs.	S EL/K-12	3/16 PH	Johnson	Support
E2SHB 1546	Concerning dual credit opportunities provided by Washington state's public institutions of higher education.	S EL/K-12		Reykdal	Support w/ amend
High School Assessments & Graduation					
SB 5122	Concerning precollege placement measures.	H Hi Ed		Kohl-Welles	No position
Higher Ed Costs & Efficiencies					
HB 1961	Decodifying, expiring, and making nonsubstantive changes to community and technical college provisions.	S Higher Ed		Zeiger	No position
ESSB 5133	Concerning a study of higher education cost drivers.	H Hi Ed	3/17 PH	Bailey	No position
SB 5977	Decodifying, expiring, and making nonsubstantive changes to community and technical college provisions.	H Hi Ed	3/17 PH	Bailey	Support
Inmate Postsecondary Ed					
HB 1704	Enhancing public safety and reducing recidivism through postsecondary education.	S Law & Justice		Pettigrew	Support
Medical School Issue					
E2SHB 1485	Concerning family medicine residencies in health professional shortage areas.	S Health Care	3/19 PH	Haler	No position
SHB 1559	Concerning higher education programs at WSU and UW.	S Higher Ed		Riccelli	No position
SSB 5487	Concerning higher education programs at WSU and UW.	H Hi Ed		Baumgartner	No position
Online Education Delivery Models					
SHB 1439	Establishing an online alternative credit model at CWU.	S Higher Ed		Sawyer	Support

Bill ID	Bill Description	Bill Status	Hearing	Sponsor	Agency Position
State Need Grant & College Bound					
ESHB 1236	Eliminating the parent or guardian approval requirement for the college bound scholarship pledge.	S Higher Ed		Ortiz-Self	No position
2SHB 2041	Creating a pilot project on performance-based scholarships in the state need grant program.	S Higher Ed		Hansen	Support
SB 5638	Changing state need grant eligibility provisions.	H Hi Ed	3/18 PH	Hasegawa	Support
2SSB 5851	Concerning recommendations of the college bound scholarship program work group.	H Hi Ed	3/18 PH	Frockt	Support
Other Financial Aid					
SHB 1570	Creating flexibility for the educator retooling conditional scholarship program.	S EL/K-12	3/16 PH	Gregory	Support
SHB 1783	Expanding dual language and bilingual instruction for early learners through secondary students.	S EL/K-12	3/17 PH	Ortiz-Self	No position
SB 5312	Creating flexibility for the educator retooling conditional scholarship program.	H Education		Litzow	Support
SB 5318	Creating the wildlife college student loan program.	H Hi Ed	3/18 PH	Parlette	Support
SB 5746	Including Everett Community College as an aerospace training or educational program.	H Hi Ed	3/18 PH	Bailey	No position
STEM					
SHB 1813	Expanding computer science education.	S EL/K-12	3/19 PH	Hansen	Support
Student Support					
2SHB 1999	Coordinating services and programs for foster youth in order to improve educational outcomes.	S EL/K-12	3/19 PH	Carlyle	Support
SSB 5328	Disseminating financial aid information.	H Hi Ed		Kohl-Welles	No position
Veterans					
SHB 1052	Requiring institutions of higher education to make an early registration process available to spouses and domestic partners of active members of the military.	S Higher Ed		Hayes	Track
SHB 1644	Concerning veteran survivor tuition waiver eligibility.	S Higher Ed		Gregory	Support
E2SHB 1825	Modifying the definition of resident student to comply with...the veterans access, choice, and accountability act of 2014.	S Higher Ed		Kilduff	Support
SSB 5355	Modifying the definition of resident student to comply with...the veterans access, choice, and accountability act of 2014.	H Hi Ed	3/18 PH	Bailey	Support

Bill ID	Bill Description	Bill Status	Hearing	Sponsor	Agency Position
Others of Interest					
E2SHB 1541	Implementing strategies to close the educational opportunity gap, based on the recommendations of the educational opportunity gap oversight and accountability committee.	S EL/K-12	3/16 PH	Santos	No position
HB 1820	Requiring the department of social and health services to request all necessary exemptions and waivers from the federal government to allow students to use electronic benefit transfer cards at institutions of higher education.	S HumSer/MnHlth		Reykdal	Support
2SHB 2063	Creating an investment program for individuals with disabilities.	S Health Care		Kilduff	No position
E2SSB 5179	Concerning paraeducators.	H Education		Hill	Track
SSB 5202	Regarding the financial education public-private partnership.	H Education	3/12 PH	Mullet	Track
SB 5351	Relating to education.	S EL/K-12		Litzow	Placeholder bill
SB 5352	Relating to education.	S EL/K-12		Litzow	Placeholder bill
SSB 5719	Creating a task force on campus sexual violence prevention.	H Hi Ed		Bailey	No position