

69th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY--1997

Regular Session Enrolled Senate Bill 504

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION CHAPTER

AN ACT Relating to engineering education; appropriating money; and declaring an emergency. Whereas the high technology industry has become Oregon's largest manufacturing sector; and Whereas engineering education is an essential ingredient in the long-term success of high technology in Oregon; and Whereas Oregon public and private educational institutions must improve and expand engineering facilities, programs and educational capacity to meet the needs of this state's high technology industry; and Whereas the Oregon Graduate Institute of Science and Technology, a private, special purpose provider of graduate and professional engineering education, is a strategic partner with the State System of Higher Education for the purpose of meeting the unique educational needs of Oregon's high technology industry, especially within the Portland metropolitan area; now, therefore, Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1.

(1) There is established an Oregon Engineering Education Investment Fund, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Oregon Engineering Education Investment Fund shall be credited to the fund.

(2) The moneys in the fund are appropriated continuously to the Department of Higher Education for the purpose of investments in engineering education.

(3) There is established a goal of at least \$100 million that will be invested in engineering education through the fund prior to July 1, 2007.

SECTION 2.

The State Board of Higher Education shall use the money from the Oregon Engineering Education Investment Fund solely for the purpose of investing in engineering education. The board shall follow the criteria and measurements established by the Engineering and Technology Industry Council in allocating money for investments in engineering education.

SECTION 3.

(1) The State Board of Higher Education shall establish an Engineering and Technology Industry Council. A majority of the council members shall be representatives of high technology companies in Oregon. The council shall be consulted on the work plans and resource allocations for engineering education. Enrolled Senate Bill 504 (SB 504-B)

(2) The council shall establish criteria and measurements that will be used for determining investments made from the Oregon Engineering Education Investment Fund.

(3) The criteria and measurements established by the council shall include:

(a) Responding to the urgent engineering educational needs of Oregon's fast growing high technology industry, especially in the Portland metropolitan area.

(b) Increasing this state's faculty and program capacity to meet the graduate level, professional education needs of engineers working in Oregon's high technology industry through investments in public and private institutions.

(c) Creating additional opportunities for Oregonians to pursue education in electrical engineering, computer engineering and other engineering disciplines critical to the advancement of Oregon's high technology industry.

(d) Investing relatively scarce state financial resources to:

(A) Address the high technology industry's most demonstrated and pressing needs;

(B) Produce the greatest amount of educational benefits with the least short- and long-term costs to the public;

(C) Avoid duplicating existing public or private resources; and

(D) Leverage existing and future private resources for the public benefit.

(e) Making all investments in public and private institutions through performance-based contracts with measurable outcomes in order to ensure strong linkage between the most urgent engineering education needs and implemented solutions.

(f) Maximizing the leverage of state investment funds to build faculty and program capacity and share existing and new faculty and program resources.

(4) Priority shall be given to investments where private financial resources from Oregon high technology companies or individuals with significant interests in the growth of high technology in Oregon are made available to augment public funds.

(5) The council shall submit biennial performance reviews of all investments made to improve engineering education with public funds in public and private institutions. The reviews shall be submitted to the Chancellor of the State System of Higher Education and the State Board of Higher Education.

SECTION 4.

Notwithstanding section 3 (3) and (4) of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 1997, the State Board of Higher Education shall use the following criteria established by the Engineering and Technology Industry Council in allocating money for investments in engineering education:

(1) To build faculty and program capacity in the Portland area for relevant, graduate level, professional education for engineers already working in the high technology industry. Fields of concentration will include electrical engineering, computer engineering, software engineering, materials engineering, environmental engineering and other engineering disciplines and subdisciplines of direct importance to Oregon's high technology industry.

(2) To enhance the program capacity and physical facilities in metropolitan Portland to allow more Oregonians to pursue an education in engineering.

(3) To encourage strategic collaboration between the Oregon Graduate Institute of Science and Technology and the State System of Higher Education to offer expanded and enriched engineering Enrolled Senate Bill 504 (SB 504-B) education programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels through cooperative efforts.

(4) To strengthen programs in community colleges to train skilled technicians and to link these programs with other institutions of higher education.

(5) To strengthen and expand technology programs offered through the Oregon Institute of Technology.

SECTION 5.

In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Emergency Board, out of the General Fund, for the biennium beginning July 1, 1997, the sum of \$5 million for allocation to the Department of Higher Education for the Oregon Engineering Education Investment Fund. Any such moneys that remain unallocated and unobligated by the Emergency Board on November 1, 1998, become available for any lawful purpose for which the Emergency Board may lawfully allocate funds.

SECTION 6.

This Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect July 1, 1997.

-----Passed by Senate June 11, 1997

..... Secretary of Senate

..... President of Senate Passed by House June 20, 1997

..... Speaker of House