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**SENATE BILL 5736**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Nobles, Holy, Mullet, Hawkins, Randall, Nguyen, and Lias

1 AN ACT Relating to addressing high demand workforce shortages;  
2 and reenacting and amending RCW 43.79.195.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.79.195 and 2021 c 334 s 971 and 2021 c 170 s 6  
5 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

6 (1) The workforce education investment account is created in the  
7 state treasury. All revenues from the workforce investment surcharge  
8 created in RCW 82.04.299 and those revenues as specified under RCW  
9 82.04.290(2)(c) must be deposited directly into the account. Moneys  
10 in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures  
11 from the account may be used only for higher education programs,  
12 higher education operations, higher education compensation, state-  
13 funded student aid programs, and workforce development including  
14 career connected learning as defined by RCW 28C.30.020. Beginning in  
15 fiscal year 2024, and each year thereafter, an amount equal to the  
16 greater of all revenues collected under RCW 82.04.299 or 15 percent  
17 of all revenues in the account must be used exclusively for higher  
18 education programs that lead to a credential in advanced computing  
19 fields and related science, technology, engineering, and math  
20 computing fields to increase access and equity, especially for low-  
21 income students and students of color.

1           (2) Expenditures from the workforce education investment account  
2 must be used to supplement, not supplant, other federal, state, and  
3 local funding for higher education.

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