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SENATE BILL 6357

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State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2010 Regular Session

By Senators Kilmer, Becker, Shin, Rockefeller, McAuliffe, and Roach

Read first time 01/13/10. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1            AN ACT Relating to policies for the academic recognition of prior  
2 experience; and creating new sections.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that students often  
5 bring a wealth of life and learning experiences from which they have  
6 benefited before enrolling at Washington institutions of higher  
7 education. The legislature further finds that many of these  
8 experiences may represent learning outcomes equivalent or superior to  
9 those received by students in more traditional academic settings. It  
10 is the intent of the legislature that Washington institutions of higher  
11 education develop policies regarding the academic recognition of prior  
12 significant life and learning experiences to be consistently applied at  
13 all Washington institutions of higher education.

14            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.** (1) The state board for community and  
15 technical colleges, in consultation with the higher education  
16 coordinating board, the council of presidents, representatives from  
17 Washington institutions of higher education, representatives from two  
18 and four-year faculty, representatives from private career schools, and

1 representatives from business and labor, shall develop policies for  
2 awarding academic credit for work and military experience, military and  
3 law enforcement training, career college training, internships and  
4 externships, and apprenticeships.

5 (2) The policies shall address, but are not limited to, issues  
6 regarding verification, accreditation, transfer of academic credit,  
7 licensing and professional recognition, and financial aid. To the  
8 greatest extent possible, the policies shall provide for consistent  
9 application by all institutions of higher education and a basis for  
10 accurate and complete academic counseling.

11 (3) Policies developed by the state board for community and  
12 technical colleges along with any suggested legislation shall be  
13 submitted to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December  
14 31, 2010.

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