
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5442

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Senators Shin, Tom, Kilmer, White, and Chase)

READ FIRST TIME 02/18/11.

1 AN ACT Relating to an accelerated baccalaureate degree program;
2 adding a new section to chapter 28B.10 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that some students are
5 eager to complete a degree in the shortest time possible in order to
6 enter the job market. The legislature further finds that providing a
7 streamlined path to a baccalaureate degree would shorten the time
8 required for students to complete a degree, improve the graduation
9 rate, and improve accessibility for students who have proven academic
10 abilities. The legislature intends to provide an accelerated
11 baccalaureate degree program that will allow academically qualified
12 students to obtain baccalaureate degrees in three years. The
13 legislature finds that this streamlined path does not represent a new
14 three-year standard for all students. The legislature intends to
15 provide greater options to students, while not diminishing the quality
16 or value of a standard baccalaureate degree. Further, the legislature
17 intends that baccalaureate institutions explore reasonable
18 possibilities for accelerated degree programs for academically
19 qualified students.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) State universities, regional universities, and The Evergreen
4 State College may develop accelerated baccalaureate degree programs
5 that will allow academically qualified students to obtain a
6 baccalaureate degree in three years without attending summer classes or
7 enrolling in more than a full-time class load during the regular
8 academic year. The programs must allow academically qualified students
9 to begin course work within their academic field during their first
10 term or semester of enrollment.

11 (2) The state universities, regional universities, and The
12 Evergreen State College shall report on their plans for the accelerated
13 baccalaureate degree programs to the higher education coordinating
14 board for approval.

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