
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1580

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By House Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Quall, Brumsickle, Jacobsen, Bray, Rayburn, Finkbeiner, Kessler, J. Kohl, Shin, G. Fisher, Springer, Romero, R. Johnson, Linville and Basich)

Read first time 03/03/93.

1 AN ACT Relating to higher education; and adding new sections to
2 chapter 28B.10 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that, in public
5 colleges and universities, improvement is needed in graduation rates
6 and in the length of time required for students to attain their
7 educational objectives. The legislature also finds that public
8 colleges and universities should offer classes in a way that will
9 permit full-time students to complete a degree or certificate program
10 in about the amount of time described in the institution's catalog as
11 necessary to complete that degree or certificate program.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) By May 15, 1994, each state institution
13 of higher education, as part of its strategic plan, shall adopt
14 strategies designed to shorten the time required for students to
15 complete a degree or certificate and to improve the graduation rate for
16 all students.

1 (2) Beginning with the fall 1995-96 academic term, each institution
2 of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016 shall implement the
3 strategies described in subsection (1) of this section.

4 (3) The strategies shall include some form of student progression
5 contract, or an alternative approach designed to accomplish the same
6 goal. A student progression contract shall permit a student who meets
7 the terms of the contract to graduate within the standard period of
8 time assumed for a full-time student pursuing that degree or
9 certificate. Usually, the standard amount of time will be about two
10 years for an associate of arts degree and about four years for a
11 baccalaureate degree. The strategies shall include an analysis of
12 alternative ways to accomplish the same objectives.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) By May 30, 1994, each public four-year
14 institution of higher education shall forward to the higher education
15 coordinating board for its review and comment, certain preliminary
16 components of the institution's strategic plan. The components shall
17 include strategies to improve student graduation rates and shorten the
18 time needed for students to obtain a baccalaureate degree.

19 (2) By May 30, 1994, each community college and each technical
20 college shall forward to the state board for community and technical
21 colleges for its review and comment, certain preliminary components of
22 the institution's strategic plan. The components shall include
23 strategies to speed the progress of students towards their educational
24 goals and shorten the time needed for students to obtain a degree or
25 certificate.

26 (3) By September 30, 1994, the state board for community and
27 technical colleges will forward to the higher education coordinating
28 board for its review and comment, a report on the strategies adopted by
29 community and technical colleges to speed the progress of students
30 towards their educational goals and to shorten the time needed for
31 students to obtain a degree or certificate.

32 (4) By December 15, 1994, the higher education coordinating board
33 shall report to the governor and the higher education committees of the
34 house of representatives and senate on its review of strategies
35 designed to improve graduation rates and shorten the time needed for
36 students to obtain a degree or certificate. The report shall include
37 an analysis of system-wide strategies and recommendations for any

1 legislation necessary to assist institutions with the implementation of
2 their plans.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Each institution of higher education as
4 defined in RCW 28B.10.016 may enter into a student progression contract
5 with an interested student. The terms of the contract shall permit a
6 student to obtain a degree or certificate within the standard period of
7 time assumed for a full-time student pursuing that degree or
8 certificate. Usually, the standard amount of time will be about two
9 years for an associate of arts degree and about four years for a
10 baccalaureate degree.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act are each
12 added to chapter 28B.10 RCW.

--- END ---