
ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 1453

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Kenney, Cox, Fromhold, Jarrett, McCoy, Berkey, Hudgins, Wood, Priest, Conway, Linville, McIntire, Benson, Rockefeller, Anderson, Lantz, Morrell, Wallace and Upthegrove

Read first time 01/27/2003. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving articulation and transfer between
2 institutions of higher education; amending RCW 28B.80.280 and
3 28B.80.290; adding new sections to chapter 28B.80 RCW; adding a new
4 section to chapter 28B.50 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

7 (a) Since 1984, institutions of higher education and the higher
8 education coordinating agencies in Washington have maintained a policy
9 and agreement on statewide transfer of credit;

10 (b) Each year, thousands of students successfully transfer between
11 community and technical colleges and four-year institutions of higher
12 education by earning an associate degree under the statewide direct
13 transfer agreement;

14 (c) However, nearly one-third of transfer students transfer before
15 completing an associate degree, which leaves the applicability of their
16 courses to general education requirements subject to the unique
17 policies of each four-year institution of higher education;

1 (d) The general direct transfer agreement associate degree may not
2 adequately prepare students for entrance into majors with extensive
3 lower-division prerequisites; and

4 (e) As institutions try to accommodate an increasing number of
5 students, there will be increased demand for efficiency in transfer so
6 that students avoid taking unnecessary courses or being required to
7 enroll in courses they have already taken at another institution.

8 (2) Therefore, the legislature intends to make improvements to the
9 statewide transfer of credit policy and agreement through the following
10 initiatives:

11 (a) Improved ease of transfer of general education courses between
12 institutions; and

13 (b) Development of transfer degrees for specific academic majors.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.80.280 and 1998 c 245 s 23 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 The board shall, in cooperation with the state institutions of
17 higher education and the state board for community and technical
18 colleges, establish and maintain a statewide transfer of credit policy
19 and agreement. The policy and agreement shall, where feasible, include
20 course and program descriptions consistent with statewide
21 interinstitutional guidelines. The institutions of higher education
22 shall provide support and staff resources as necessary to assist in
23 developing and maintaining this policy and agreement. The statewide
24 transfer of credit policy and agreement shall be effective beginning
25 with the 1985-86 academic year. Changes to the policy as a result of
26 section 4 of this act shall be effective beginning with the 2004-05
27 academic year.

28 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.80.290 and 1983 c 304 s 2 are each amended to read
29 as follows:

30 (1) The statewide transfer of credit policy and agreement shall be
31 designed to facilitate the transfer of students and the evaluation of
32 transcripts, to better serve persons seeking information about courses
33 and programs, to aid in academic planning, and to improve the review
34 and evaluation of academic programs in the state institutions of higher
35 education. The statewide transfer of credit policy and agreement shall

1 not require nor encourage the standardization of course content and
2 shall not prescribe course content or the credit value assigned by any
3 institution to the course.

4 (2) The statewide transfer of credit policy and agreement shall
5 create flexible opportunities to satisfy lower division general
6 education requirements at public four-year institutions of higher
7 education for students who elect to transfer without completing an
8 associate degree, as provided in section 4 of this act.

9 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 28B.80 RCW
10 to read as follows:

11 (1) The higher education coordinating board, the state board for
12 community and technical colleges, and the council of presidents, in
13 partnership, shall convene a work group to recommend changes to the
14 statewide transfer of credit policy and agreement as provided in this
15 section. The work group shall include representatives from each of the
16 public four-year institutions of higher education and a broad sample of
17 community and technical colleges.

18 (2) The work group shall identify a general education transfer
19 curriculum, completion of which will satisfy the lower division general
20 education requirements at all public four-year institutions of higher
21 education in the state.

22 (3) A student who successfully completes the general education
23 transfer curriculum shall be deemed to have met the lower division
24 general education requirements at any public four-year institution of
25 higher education, regardless of whether the student completes an
26 associate degree before transfer. Students may complete courses within
27 the general education transfer curriculum at one or more community or
28 technical colleges or one or more four-year institutions of higher
29 education.

30 (4) Completion of the general education transfer curriculum does
31 not guarantee a student admission into an institution of higher
32 education or admission into a major, minor, or professional program at
33 an institution of higher education.

34 (5) The work group shall not specify individual courses within the
35 transfer curriculum but shall describe as clearly and succinctly as
36 possible the characteristics of the courses and the core competencies
37 to be addressed by the general education curriculum. The intercollege

1 relations commission shall collect and maintain the lists of courses
2 offered by each community and technical college and public four-year
3 institution of higher education that fall within the general education
4 transfer curriculum.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.80 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The higher education coordinating board, the state board for
8 community and technical colleges, and the council of presidents, in
9 partnership, shall convene a work group to develop transfer associate
10 degrees that will satisfy lower division requirements at public four-
11 year institutions of higher education for specific academic majors.

12 (2) A transfer associate degree developed under this section shall
13 meet all lower division course requirements at any public four-year
14 institution of higher education for the academic major for which the
15 degree was developed. Such a transfer associate degree shall also
16 enable a student to complete the lower-division general education
17 requirements that a nontransferring student would typically complete in
18 the freshman and sophomore years for that academic major.

19 (3) Completion of a transfer associate degree developed under this
20 section does not guarantee a student admission into an institution of
21 higher education or admission into a major, minor, or professional
22 program at an institution of higher education that has competitive
23 admission standards for the program based on grade point average or
24 other performance criteria.

25 (4) During the 2003-04 academic year, the work group shall develop
26 transfer degrees for business administration, elementary education, and
27 secondary education with math or science endorsements. Each year
28 thereafter, the work group shall identify and develop additional
29 transfer degrees. The work group shall give priority to majors in high
30 demand by transfer students and majors where the general direct
31 transfer agreement associate degree does not adequately prepare
32 students to enter the major automatically upon transfer.

33 (5) The intercollege relations commission shall collect and
34 maintain lists of courses offered by each community and technical
35 college and public four-year institution of higher education that fall
36 within each transfer associate degree.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.80 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 Beginning December 1, 2003, the board, the state board for
4 community and technical colleges, and the council of presidents shall
5 submit a progress report on the initiatives directed by sections 4 and
6 5 of this act to the higher education committees of the house of
7 representatives and the senate. The first progress report shall
8 include measurable benchmark indicators to monitor the effectiveness of
9 the initiatives in improving transfer and baseline data for those
10 indicators before the implementation of the initiatives. Subsequent
11 reports shall be submitted by December 1st of each odd-numbered year
12 and shall monitor progress on the indicators, describe development of
13 additional transfer associate degrees, and provide other data on
14 improvements in transfer efficiency.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW
16 to read as follows:

17 Prior to registration, each community or technical college shall
18 notify students regarding which of the institution's courses fall
19 within the general education transfer curriculum under section 4 of
20 this act or within one or more transfer associate degrees under section
21 5 of this act.

--- END ---