
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; and creating a
4 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;

18 (d) The general direct transfer agreement associate degree may not

1 adequately prepare students for entrance into majors with extensive
2 lower-division prerequisites; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 (1) The statewide transfer of credit policy and agreement shall be
30 designed to facilitate the transfer of students and the evaluation of
31 transcripts, to better serve persons seeking information about courses
32 and programs, to aid in academic planning, and to improve the review
33 and evaluation of academic programs in the state institutions of higher
34 education. The statewide transfer of credit policy and agreement shall
35 not require nor encourage the standardization of course content and

1 shall not prescribe course content or the credit value assigned by any
2 institution to the course.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 offered by each community and technical college and public four-year
2 institution of higher education that fall within the general education
3 transfer curriculum.

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

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

11 (2) A student who successfully completes a transfer associate
12 degree developed under this section shall be deemed to have met all
13 lower division course requirements at any public four-year institution
14 of higher education for the academic major for which the degree was
15 developed. A transfer associate degree shall also enable a student to
16 complete a comparable portion of the lower-division general education
17 requirements as a nontransferring student would typically complete for
18 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.

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