
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1909

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By House Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Jarrett, Kenney, Cox, Fromhold, Chase, Berkey, Pearson, McCoy, Gombosky, Lantz, Clements, Talcott, Buck, Rockefeller, Pflug, Moeller, Priest, Edwards and Santos)

READ FIRST TIME 03/05/03.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a pilot project for competency-based
2 transfer in higher education; creating new sections; and providing an
3 expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the focus of
6 transfer between institutions of higher education has been on students'
7 accumulation of credits, where courses necessary for entry to each
8 successive level of higher education have been individually identified
9 and vary by institution and academic discipline. It is the
10 legislature's intent to begin a process that will change the focus of
11 transfer to defining and recognizing student competencies.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The higher education coordinating board,
13 in consultation with the state board for community and technical
14 colleges and the council of presidents, shall recruit and select
15 institutions of higher education to participate in a pilot project to
16 define transfer standards in selected academic disciplines on the basis
17 of student competencies. Participants shall include one public four-
18 year institution of higher education, two or more community or

1 technical colleges that regularly transfer a substantial number of
2 students to that four-year institution, and one or more private career
3 colleges that prepare students in the academic disciplines selected
4 under the pilot project. Such colleges shall be accredited and
5 licensed under chapter 28C.10 RCW.

6 (2) The pilot project participants shall identify several academic
7 disciplines to form the basis of the project and develop a work plan,
8 timelines, and expected products for the project, which shall be
9 presented by the higher education coordinating board in a preliminary
10 report to the higher education committees of the legislature by
11 December 1, 2004.

12 (3) Under the pilot project, participants shall develop standards,
13 definitions, and procedures for quality assurance for a transfer system
14 based on student competencies. It is the legislature's intent that
15 under such a system, four-year institutions of higher education, in
16 collaboration with two-year institutions of higher education, define
17 the knowledge, skills, and abilities students should possess in order
18 to enter an upper division program in a particular academic discipline.
19 The two and four-year institutions providing lower division preparation
20 for such an upper division program are responsible for certifying that
21 a student meets the expected standards, but have flexibility to
22 determine how to assess whether the student has obtained the necessary
23 knowledge, skills, and abilities. Such assessments need not be based
24 on completion of particular courses or accumulation of credits.

25 (4) The pilot project participants may request assistance in their
26 work from the higher education coordinating board, the state board for
27 community and technical colleges, or the council of presidents. The
28 pilot project participants and the higher education coordinating board
29 shall structure the work of the project in such a way that development
30 costs for the project are absorbed within existing institution and
31 agency budgets.

32 (5) In collaboration with the higher education coordinating board,
33 the pilot project participants shall report to the higher education
34 committees of the legislature by December 1, 2005, on the progress and
35 status of the pilot project. The report shall identify any barriers
36 encountered by the project and make recommendations for next steps in

1 developing a competency-based transfer system for higher education.

2 (6) This section expires June 30, 2006.

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