

---

HOUSE BILL 1909

---

State of Washington                      58th Legislature                      2003 Regular Session

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 02/14/2003.                      Referred to Committee on Higher  
Education.

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 as defined in RCW 28B.10.016 to  
16 participate in a pilot project to define transfer standards in selected  
17 academic disciplines on the basis of student competencies.  
18 Participants shall include one four-year institution of higher

1 education and two or more community or technical colleges that  
2 regularly transfer a substantial number of students to that four-year  
3 institution.

4 (2) The pilot project participants shall identify several academic  
5 disciplines to form the basis of the project and develop a work plan,  
6 timelines, and expected products for the project, which shall be  
7 presented by the higher education coordinating board in a preliminary  
8 report to the higher education committees of the legislature by  
9 December 1, 2003.

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

23 (4) The pilot project participants may request assistance in their  
24 work from the higher education coordinating board, the state board for  
25 community and technical colleges, or the council of presidents.

26 (5) In collaboration with the higher education coordinating board,  
27 the pilot project participants shall report to the higher education  
28 committees of the legislature by December 1, 2004, on the progress and  
29 status of the pilot project. The report shall identify any barriers  
30 encountered by the project and make recommendations for next steps in  
31 developing a competency-based transfer system for higher education.

32 (6) This section expires June 30, 2005.

--- END ---