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ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2783

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Wallace, Chase, Anderson, Sells, Haigh, Roberts, Hasegawa, Morrell, Sullivan, Kenney, and Hudgins)

READ FIRST TIME 02/12/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to transfer and articulation between institutions  
2 of higher education; adding new sections to chapter 28B.10 RCW; adding  
3 a new section to chapter 28B.76 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that students are  
6 accessing higher education differently than they have in previous  
7 years. Rather than attending a single institution and attaining their  
8 degree, many students now attend multiple institutions, sometimes  
9 simultaneously.

10 The legislature also finds that learning occurs throughout a  
11 person's lifetime. Whether citizens need different training to change  
12 careers or need further education for career advancement, people exit  
13 and reenter institutions of higher education multiple times and for  
14 various reasons.

15 The legislature also finds that current policies and practices do  
16 not provide clear, consistent, easily accessible information to ease  
17 transition in and among the state's colleges and universities. Often,  
18 courses taken at some career and technical schools as well as private  
19 for-profit institutions are not accepted in transfer because these

1 schools are not accredited by a regional accrediting body. Students  
2 often do not understand that these courses are not transferrable.  
3 Students must retake courses once they have transferred into a  
4 regionally accredited institution, costing the student additional time  
5 and money.

6 Therefore, it is the legislature's intent to improve statewide  
7 communication and coordination of transfer and articulation policies  
8 and practices. Students should be provided clear, consistent  
9 information regarding the courses required for their degrees and how  
10 those courses will be treated when a student moves between colleges and  
11 universities. This information should be communicated to students and  
12 their families in one easily accessible place in a format that is  
13 common among all colleges and universities in the state.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10 RCW  
15 to read as follows:

16 (1) The higher education coordinating board shall convene a work  
17 group of representatives from the state board for community and  
18 technical colleges, the office of the superintendent of public  
19 instruction, the council of presidents, and two-year and four-year  
20 institutions of higher education to develop a list of rights guaranteed  
21 to students who have earned a transfer associate degree under the  
22 direct transfer agreement. The work group may be an existing work  
23 group that addresses policy issues related to transitions among public  
24 and private institutions of higher education and may also include  
25 representatives from the independent colleges of Washington.

26 (2) The list in subsection (1) of this section shall be known as  
27 the transfer student bill of rights and shall include statements of  
28 institutional policy regarding transfer and articulation to assist  
29 students who have earned a transfer associate degree in their academic  
30 planning. The list shall include but is not limited to:

31 (a) Admission to each public and private two-year and four-year  
32 institution of higher education that participates in the direct  
33 transfer agreement;

34 (b) The number of credits that will transfer;

35 (c) Academic requirements fulfilled by the degree at the receiving  
36 institution;

1 (d) Acceptance of credit earned in dual enrollment and accelerated  
2 programs such as advanced placement, running start, and international  
3 baccalaureate;

4 (e) Acceptance of credits earned at nonregionally accredited  
5 institutions; and

6 (f) Advance knowledge of selection criteria for limited access  
7 programs.

8 (3) The work group shall determine which elements in this section  
9 are guaranteed to students entering a four-year institution of higher  
10 education and which elements differ based on admission requirements at  
11 a specific institution or program. The work group must determine the  
12 clearest manner in which to communicate this information to students  
13 and their families as part of the transfer student bill of rights.

14 (4) The transfer student bill of rights shall be displayed  
15 prominently in a user-friendly area of each institution's web site.  
16 Admissions offices, transfer planning offices, recruiting offices and  
17 other relevant offices at public and private institutions of higher  
18 education shall also make the transfer student bill of rights available  
19 to prospective and enrolled students. Public institutions of higher  
20 education shall make the bill of rights available by September 2009.  
21 The transfer student bill of rights may also be used by private  
22 institutions of higher education participating in direct transfer  
23 agreements.

24 (5) For purposes of this section, "nonregionally accredited  
25 institutions" means only those institutions that are fully accredited  
26 by a national accrediting agency recognized by the United States  
27 department of education.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10 RCW  
29 to read as follows:

30 (1) Consistent with the statewide strategic master plan for higher  
31 education and to the extent necessary following implementation of web-  
32 based academic planning tools developed under section 6 of this act,  
33 the higher education coordinating board shall convene a work group  
34 identified in section 2(1) of this act to develop a common set of  
35 course numbers for lower division general education courses that are  
36 generally accepted in transfer between two-year and four-year  
37 institutions of higher education as well as between four-year

1 institutions of higher education. The independent colleges of  
2 Washington may participate in this process. The work group shall  
3 determine the best manner by which to identify equivalent courses using  
4 the common number. The common number may be added to existing course  
5 numbers and does not need to replace existing course numbers.

6 (2) The common course number shall include the same course  
7 abbreviation and course number shared among four-year institutions of  
8 higher education for equivalent courses. To the extent possible,  
9 common course numbers within four-year institutions of higher education  
10 should match common course numbers used in the community and technical  
11 college system.

12 (3) Common course numbering at the four-year level does not require  
13 standardized course content. The work group must take into account the  
14 unique nature of the curriculum of The Evergreen State College in  
15 developing the common course numbering system.

16 (4) The system of common course numbering must be implemented and  
17 available for public use by September 2011.

18 (5) The higher education coordinating board, in collaboration with  
19 the work group and four-year institutions of higher education, shall  
20 provide a progress report to the appropriate committees of the  
21 legislature by December 2011.

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

24 (1) Consistent with the statewide strategic master plan for higher  
25 education and to the extent necessary following implementation of  
26 web-based academic planning tools developed under section 6 of this  
27 act, the higher education coordinating board shall convene a work group  
28 identified in section 2(1) of this act to develop a system of  
29 identification that distinguishes the lower division general education  
30 courses that are generally transferrable as lower division general  
31 education, major or preparation for a major, or elective courses from  
32 two-year institutions of higher education to four-year institutions of  
33 higher education from courses that do not generally transfer outside an  
34 academic transfer degree in order to enable students to identify  
35 generally transferable courses at the time of registration.

36 (2) The system may include an intermediate identifier for courses  
37 that may transfer to particular institutions of higher education or

1 programs. Whether and to what extent each lower division, general  
2 education course published in an institutional catalog is transferrable  
3 as lower division general education, major or preparation for a major,  
4 or elective courses must be identified in a manner mutually agreed upon  
5 by the two-year institutions of higher education and four-year  
6 institutions of higher education.

7 (3) Institutions of higher education must publish this information  
8 either in physical course catalogs or those published on the internet.

9 (4) The system of identification in this section shall be  
10 implemented by September 2009.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.76 RCW  
12 to read as follows:

13 (1) The higher education coordinating board must convene a work  
14 group including representatives from the state board for community and  
15 technical colleges, the workforce training and education coordinating  
16 board, the council of presidents, two-year institutions of higher  
17 education, and four-year institutions of higher education to develop a  
18 plan to monitor the progress and success of transfer students. The  
19 workgroup may be an existing work group that addresses policy issues  
20 related to transitions across institutions of higher education.

21 (2) The plan shall contain data that measures student progress  
22 through the higher education system that can be monitored over time.  
23 This information shall include, but not be limited to:

24 (a) The number of students who indicate their intent to transfer at  
25 the time of enrollment and the percentage of those students who  
26 actually transfer or earn an associate degree within three years;

27 (b) Educational outcomes for students who declare their intent to  
28 transfer, earn at least fifteen academic credits, and transfer within  
29 three years;

30 (c) The percentage of students who earn their four-year degree  
31 within three years of earning their associate degree;

32 (d) The average time and credits to completion of an academic  
33 transfer degree including the direct transfer agreement, the associate  
34 of science-transfer, and all major related programs; and

35 (e) The average grade point average for students who attain their  
36 transfer associate degrees.

1 (3) The plan shall also include analysis regarding the barriers  
2 that transfer students face in pursuit of their four-year degree and  
3 recommendations to address those barriers.

4 (4) The higher education coordinating board, in collaboration with  
5 the work group and the state board for community and technical  
6 colleges, shall report to the appropriate committees of the legislature  
7 by January 2009, and thereafter on a time schedule consistent with  
8 reporting related to monitoring progress toward the higher education  
9 coordinating board master plan goals.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) Consistent with the schedule and work  
11 plans for implementation of the strategic master plan for higher  
12 education, the higher education coordinating board shall convene a work  
13 group or assign an existing work group that includes broad  
14 representation from the workforce training and education coordinating  
15 board, the state board for community and technical colleges,  
16 institutions of higher education, the independent colleges of  
17 Washington, the center for information services, and the office of the  
18 superintendent of public instruction to create a detailed plan for  
19 developing and implementing a statewide web- based academic planning  
20 tool. The web-based academic planning tool would be used by current,  
21 prospective, and returning students to plan their path from high school  
22 through the attainment of their higher education goals.

23 (2) The plan shall contain information including, but not limited  
24 to:

25 (a) Functions that will be included in the web site;

26 (b) Options for development including, but not limited to:  
27 Purchasing the entire system from a vendor; purchasing parts of the  
28 system from a private vendor; building parts of the system with  
29 Washington informational technology resources; and building the entire  
30 system with Washington information technology resources; and

31 (c) Costs associated with each of the options in this subsection.

32 (3) The higher education coordinating board shall report to the  
33 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 15, 2008. The  
34 report shall include recommendations on the most robust yet cost-  
35 effective options for the web-based academic planning tool.

1        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 7.**   If specific funding for the purposes of this  
2   act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by  
3   June 30, 2008, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and  
4   void.

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