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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) The work group identified in section 2(1) of this act shall  
31 develop a common set of course numbers for lower division general  
32 education courses that are generally accepted in transfer between two-  
33 year and four-year institutions of higher education as well as between  
34 four-year institutions of higher education. The independent colleges  
35 of Washington may participate in this process. The work group shall  
36 determine the best manner by which to identify equivalent courses using

1 the common number. The common number may be added to existing course  
2 numbers and does not need to replace existing course numbers.

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

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

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

15 (5) The higher education coordinating board, in collaboration with  
16 the work group and four-year institutions of higher education, shall  
17 provide a progress report to the appropriate committees of the  
18 legislature by December 2009.

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

21 (1) The work group identified in section 2(1) of this act shall  
22 develop a system of identification that distinguishes the lower  
23 division general education courses that are generally transferrable as  
24 lower division general education, major or preparation for a major, or  
25 elective courses from two-year institutions of higher education to  
26 four-year institutions of higher education from courses that do not  
27 generally transfer outside an academic transfer degree in order to  
28 enable students to identify generally transferable courses at the time  
29 of registration.

30 (2) The system may include an intermediate identifier for courses  
31 that may transfer to particular institutions of higher education or  
32 programs. Whether and to what extent each lower division, general  
33 education course published in an institutional catalog is transferrable  
34 as lower division general education, major or preparation for a major,  
35 or elective courses must be identified in a manner mutually agreed upon  
36 by the two-year institutions of higher education and four-year  
37 institutions of higher education.

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

3 (4) The system of identification in this section shall be  
4 implemented by September 2011.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 (4) The higher education coordinating board, in collaboration with  
35 the work group and the state board for community and technical  
36 colleges, shall report to the appropriate committees of the legislature

1 by January 2009, and thereafter on a time schedule consistent with  
2 reporting related to monitoring progress toward the higher education  
3 coordinating board master plan goals.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The higher education coordinating board  
5 shall convene a work group that includes representatives from the  
6 workforce training and education coordinating board, the state board  
7 for community and technical colleges, institutions of higher education,  
8 the independent colleges of Washington, the center for information  
9 services, and the office of the superintendent of public instruction to  
10 create a detailed plan for developing and implementing a statewide web-  
11 based academic planning tool. The web-based academic planning tool  
12 would be used by current, prospective, and returning students to plan  
13 their path from high school through the attainment of their higher  
14 education goals.

15 (2) The plan shall contain information including, but not limited  
16 to;

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

18 (b) Options for development including, but not limited to:  
19 Purchasing the entire system from a vendor; purchasing parts of the  
20 system from a private vendor; building parts of the system with  
21 Washington informational technology resources; and building the entire  
22 system with Washington information technology resources; and

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

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

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

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