
HOUSE BILL 2783

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Wallace, Chase, Anderson, Sells, Haigh, Roberts, Hasegawa, Morrell, Sullivan, Kenney, and Hudgins

Read first time 01/16/08. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

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 to move into management, 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 council of presidents, and two-year and four-
19 year institutions of higher education to develop a list of rights
20 guaranteed to students who have earned a transfer associate degree
21 under the direct transfer agreement. The work group may be an existing
22 work group that addresses policy issues related to transitions among
23 public and private institutions of higher education and may also
24 include representatives from the independent colleges of Washington.

25 (2) The list in subsection (1) of this section shall be known as
26 the transfer student bill of rights and shall include student rights
27 regarding, but not limited to:

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

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

32 (c) Academic requirements fulfilled by the degree at the receiving
33 institution;

34 (d) Acceptance of credit earned in dual enrollment and accelerated
35 programs such as advanced placement, running start, and international
36 baccalaureate;

1 (e) Acceptance of credits earned at nonregionally accredited
2 institutions as defined in section 7 of this act; and

3 (f) Advance knowledge of selection criteria for limited access
4 programs.

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

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

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

23 (1) The work group identified in section 2(1) of this act shall
24 develop a common set of course numbers for lower division general
25 education courses that are generally accepted in transfer between two-
26 year and four-year institutions of higher education as well as between
27 four-year institutions of higher education. The independent colleges
28 of Washington may participate in this process.

29 (2) The common course number shall include the same course
30 abbreviation, course number, and course title shared among four-year
31 institutions of higher education for equivalent courses. To the extent
32 possible, common course numbers within four-year institutions of higher
33 education should match common course numbers used in the community and
34 technical college system.

35 (3) Common course numbering at the four-year level does not require
36 standardized course content but does require each four-year institution

1 of higher education to use only the common number. The work group must
2 take into account the unique nature of the curriculum of The Evergreen
3 State College in developing the common course numbering system.

4 (4) The system of common course numbering must be implemented by
5 September 2011.

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

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

12 (1) The work group identified in section 2(1) of this act shall
13 develop a system of identification that distinguishes the lower
14 division general education courses that are generally transferrable
15 from two-year institutions of higher education to four-year
16 institutions of higher education from courses that do not generally
17 transfer outside an academic transfer degree in order to enable
18 students to identify generally transferable courses at the time of
19 registration.

20 (2) The system may include an intermediate identifier for courses
21 that may transfer to particular institutions of higher education or
22 programs. Whether and to what extent each lower division, general
23 education course published in an institutional catalog is transferrable
24 must be identified in a manner mutually agreed upon by the two-year
25 institutions of higher education and four-year institutions of higher
26 education.

27 (3) Institutions of higher education must publish this information
28 both in physical course catalogs and those published on the internet.

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

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

33 (1) The higher education coordinating board must convene a work
34 group including representatives from the state board for community and
35 technical colleges, the workforce training and education coordinating
36 board, the council of presidents, two-year institutions of higher

1 education, and four-year institutions of higher education to develop a
2 plan to monitor the progress and success of transfer students. The
3 workgroup may be an existing work group that addresses policy issues
4 related to transitions across institutions of higher education.

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

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

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

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

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

19 (e) The average grade point average for students who attain their
20 transfer associate degrees displayed by intended transfer destination.

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

24 (4) The higher education coordinating board, in collaboration with
25 the work group and the state board for community and technical
26 colleges, shall report to the appropriate committees of the legislature
27 by January 2009, and every two years thereafter on the data and
28 recommendations contained in this section.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The higher education coordinating board
30 shall convene a work group that includes representatives from the
31 workforce training and education coordinating board, the state board
32 for community and technical colleges, institutions of higher education,
33 the independent colleges of Washington, the center for information
34 services, and the office of the superintendent of public instruction to
35 create a detailed plan for developing and implementing a statewide web-
36 based academic planning tool. The web-based academic planning tool

1 would be used by current, prospective, and returning students to plan
2 their path from high school through the attainment of their higher
3 education goals.

4 (2) The plan shall contain information including, but not limited
5 to;

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

7 (b) Options for development including, but not limited to:
8 Purchasing the entire system from a vendor; purchasing parts of the
9 system from a private vendor; building parts of the system with
10 Washington informational technology resources; and building the entire
11 system with Washington information technology resources; and

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

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

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10 RCW
18 to read as follows:

19 (1) Institutions of higher education must publish a list of all
20 courses that will be accepted in transfer from nonregionally accredited
21 institutions. The institutions of higher education shall designate
22 whether the course will transfer into academic or workforce education
23 programs, whether the course must have been taken as part of a transfer
24 associate degree, and whether the course is transferrable into an
25 applied bachelor's degree program. If an institution of higher
26 education does not accept credits from nonregionally accredited
27 institutions, the institution of higher education must explicitly state
28 the policy in a manner that is easily accessed by prospective students
29 and their families.

30 (2) For purposes of this section, "nonregionally accredited
31 institutions" means only those institutions that are fully accredited
32 by a national accrediting agency recognized by the United States
33 department of education.

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