
HOUSE BILL 3306

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Wallace and Dunn

Read first time 01/30/08. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to electronic learning at institutions of higher
2 education; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) Technology has changed the breadth and
5 depth of educational opportunities available by providing access to
6 higher education through remote, off-campus means such as audio, video,
7 and computer technologies. These technological advances have expanded
8 access to help meet the needs of all students, including those with
9 historically low levels of participation in higher education.
10 Technology has enabled nontraditional students, many of whom work full
11 time and have family responsibilities, to access postsecondary
12 education on a schedule that accommodates their lifestyle. The
13 legislature finds that distance learning has expanded beyond
14 correspondence courses and other forms of off-site education to include
15 teleconferencing, online interactive learning, and podcasting.

16 (2) Therefore, it is the legislature's intent to establish and
17 maintain a comprehensive set of best practices and standards of
18 accountability and quality for all electronic learning programs to

1 guide students and their families when making course and program degree
2 selections.

3 (3) The state board for community and technical colleges shall
4 convene a work group that includes representatives from the workforce
5 training and education coordinating board, the prosperity partnership,
6 the technology alliance, the Washington online campus of the state
7 board for community and technical colleges, a private career or
8 vocational school, a four-year public institution of higher education,
9 the council of faculty representatives, and a community or technical
10 college student to take the following actions related to electronic
11 learning:

12 (a) Review, and to the extent necessary, establish standards and
13 best practices regarding electronic learning and related support
14 services including advising, mentoring, counseling, and tutoring;

15 (b) Recommend methods to increase student access to electronic
16 learning programs of study and identify barriers to program of study
17 participation and completion;

18 (c) Determine methods to increase the institutional supply and
19 quality of open course materials, with a focus on the OpenCourseWare
20 initiative at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology;

21 (d) Recommend methods to increase the availability and use of
22 electronic textbooks; and

23 (e) Review and report demographic information on electronic
24 learning program of study enrollments, retention, and completions.

25 (4) The work group shall report its findings and recommendations to
26 the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2008.

27 (5) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
28 section.

29 (a) "Electronic learning" means a program of study in which
30 teachers and students are physically separated for a predominant amount
31 of instructional contact hours.

32 (b) "Program of study" means a credit or noncredit class, degree,
33 or certificate program.

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