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## Higher Education Committee

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### HB 1312

**Brief Description:** Eliminating the exclusive authority of the University of Washington and Washington State University to offer certain engineering courses.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Sells, Schmick, Wallace, Anderson, Driscoll, McCoy, Chase, Kenney, Carlyle, White and Roberts.

#### Brief Summary of Bill

- Removes the restriction that only the University of Washington (UW) and Washington State University (WSU) may offer civil, mechanical, and chemical engineering.
- Removes the restriction that only the University of Washington (UW) may offer aeronautic and astronautic engineering.

**Hearing Date:** 1/30/09

**Staff:** Cece Clynych (786-7195)

#### Background:

**Exclusive Lines of Study.** State laws stipulate that only the University of Washington (UW) or Washington State University (WSU) may offer degrees in particular major lines of study:

- Offered only by the UW: Law, medicine, forest products, logging engineering, library sciences, aeronautic and astronautic engineering, and fisheries.
- Offered only by WSU: Agriculture (in all its branches and subdivisions), veterinary medicine, and economic science in its application to agriculture and rural life.
- Offered only by the UW or WSU: Pharmacy, architecture, civil engineering, mechanical engineering, chemical engineering, and forest management.

In 2003, the restriction that only the UW or WSU could offer electrical engineering was lifted. In 1985, restrictions with respect to lines of study in liberal arts, pure science, mining, home

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economics, commerce, journalism, and marine engineering were removed. At the same time, a new major line restriction was added so that only the UW could offer astronautic engineering.

***Higher Education Coordinating Board Program Approval.*** Creation of a new degree program at a public four-year institution requires approval by the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB). In its evaluation process, the HECB must utilize clear guidelines and objective decision-making criteria and must review and consult with the institution and other interested agencies and individuals. Institutions seeking approval must demonstrate that the proposal is justified by the HECB's needs assessment and show how the proposal aligns with or implements the statewide Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education.

Subsequent to the 2003 removal of the major lines restriction with respect to electrical engineering, Eastern Washington University (EWU) applied for and received HECB approval to offer electrical engineering. EWU began offering coursework in electrical engineering in the fall of 2005.

**Summary of Bill:**

Restrictions on offering the following major lines of study are removed: civil, mechanical, chemical, aeronautic and astronautic engineering.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.