

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 5043

C 23 L 09

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Convening a work group to develop a single, coordinated student access portal for college information.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Senators Kilmer, Kauffman, Shin, Rockefeller, Kastama, Kohl-Welles, Jarrett, Tom and McAuliffe).

Senate Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development
House Committee on Higher Education

Background: The Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) maintains a website where students and parents can obtain information about financing a college education. The HECB and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges are currently working on an academic guidance and planning system (Academic GPS) that uses web-based technology to provide an online, statewide system for degree planning and advising. The proposed system includes planning tools to help students transfer among the state's colleges and universities.

Several states have created one-stop college access web portals for prospective and current college students and their families. The portals provide information on how to plan, pay, and apply for college. Portals may also include career centers. Some states claim that web portals are demonstrably useful to students and parents. The most sophisticated of these websites serve as one-stop portals to all public post-secondary institutions in the state.

Summary: The HECB convenes a work group to develop a plan to create a one-stop, web-based portal for students and families planning, preparing, and applying for, as well as those attending, postsecondary education. The purpose of the portal is to provide comprehensive information and applications regarding financial, academic, and career planning.

The work group investigates similar ongoing efforts in other states including what information and services are typically offered, what planning stages and budgets are associated with portals, and whether the states' efforts are increasing postsecondary participation. The portal must be student-centered and must not presuppose a sophisticated understanding of postsecondary education. The portal must utilize existing infrastructure

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whenever possible. The final report of the work group along with proposed enabling legislative and administrative solutions is due to the Legislature by December 1, 2009.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	48	0
House	97	0

Effective: July 26, 2009