
HOUSE BILL 1763

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Upthegrove, Darneille, Chase, Takko, Kenney,
Williams, Hudgins, Eddy, and Nelson

Read first time 01/28/09. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to higher education admissions policies; adding a
2 new section to chapter 28B.10 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that providing access
5 to higher education is important both for the betterment of our
6 citizens and revitalization of our economy. Providing that access to
7 all citizens equally is the bedrock of the higher education system.

8 The legislature also finds that during times of economic downturn,
9 demand for higher education increases. Whether people have been laid
10 off and need retraining or people need more education to keep their
11 current jobs, demand on the state's institutions of higher education
12 increases when the supply of state revenue decreases. Colleges and
13 universities must make adjustments, some of which impact students.

14 However, the legislature also finds that the manner in which
15 colleges and universities respond to budget pressures must be
16 consistent, equitable, and aligned with the state's economic needs. In
17 2008, the legislature adopted the strategic master plan for higher
18 education, which articulated the state's need for highly skilled
19 workers over the next decade. College and university admissions

1 policies and procedures must reflect the priorities in that strategic
2 plan, even in the face of difficult economic times. While the
3 legislature finds that it is sometimes necessary to prioritize certain
4 programs of study to meet state needs, the legislature also recognizes
5 the necessity to treat students equitably and consistently in the
6 admissions process. Therefore, it is the legislature's intent to
7 ensure that institutions of higher education implement enrollment
8 reductions in a manner that reflects state priorities.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10 RCW
10 to read as follows:

11 If the legislature reduces or does not increase enrollments over
12 the previous biennium as specified in the omnibus appropriations act,
13 or if the institutions of higher education reduce enrollment for any
14 academic term, the reduction shall apply to all categories of students
15 on an equal basis. Special exemptions for certain high-demand programs
16 of study may be made at the discretion of the institution of higher
17 education. Exemptions for classifications of students, including but
18 not limited to student athletes, may not be made.

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