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HOUSE BILL 1904

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Parker, Wallace, Anderson, Warnick, Miloscia, and Kretz

Read first time 02/02/09. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to high-cost critical programs; and amending RCW  
2 28B.76.290 and 28B.76.020.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.76.290 and 1993 c 77 s 2 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 The board shall coordinate educational activities among all  
7 segments of higher education taking into account the educational  
8 programs, facilities, and other resources of both public and  
9 independent two and four-year colleges and universities. The four-year  
10 institutions and the state board for community and technical colleges  
11 shall coordinate information and activities with the board. The board  
12 shall have the following additional responsibilities:

13 (1) Promote interinstitutional cooperation;

14 (2) Establish minimum admission standards for four-year  
15 institutions, including a requirement that coursework in American sign  
16 language or an American Indian language shall satisfy any requirement  
17 for instruction in a language other than English that the board or the  
18 institutions may establish as a general undergraduate admissions  
19 requirement;

- 1 (3) Establish transfer policies;
- 2 (4) Adopt rules implementing statutory residency requirements;
- 3 (5) Develop and administer reciprocity agreements with bordering  
4 states and the province of British Columbia;
- 5 (6) Review and recommend compensation practices and levels for  
6 administrative employees, exempt under chapter 28B.16 RCW, and faculty  
7 using comparative data from peer institutions;
- 8 (7) Monitor higher education activities for compliance with all  
9 relevant state policies for higher education;
- 10 (8) Arbitrate disputes between and among four-year institutions or  
11 between and among four-year institutions and community colleges at the  
12 request of one or more of the institutions involved, or at the request  
13 of the governor, or from a resolution adopted by the legislature. The  
14 decision of the board shall be binding on the participants in the  
15 dispute;
- 16 (9) Establish and implement a state system for collecting,  
17 analyzing, and distributing information;
- 18 (10) Recommend to the governor and the legislature ways to remove  
19 any economic incentives to use off-campus program funds for on-campus  
20 activities; (~~and~~)
- 21 (11) Make recommendations to increase minority participation, and  
22 monitor and report on the progress of minority participation in higher  
23 education; and
- 24 (12) In close collaboration with the workforce training and  
25 education coordinating board, identify high-cost critical programs as  
26 defined in RCW 28B.76.020 and manage competitive processes for awarding  
27 funds for those programs. Institutions of higher education as defined  
28 in RCW 28B.10.016 and private independent institutions are eligible to  
29 apply for funding and may submit proposals.

30 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.76.020 and 1985 c 370 s 2 are each amended to read  
31 as follows:

32 (~~For the purposes of~~) The definitions in this section apply  
33 throughout this chapter(+) unless the context clearly requires  
34 otherwise.

35 (1) "Board" means the higher education coordinating board(~~+~~and).

36 (2) "Four-year institutions" means the University of Washington,

1 Washington State University, Central Washington University, Eastern  
2 Washington University, Western Washington University, and The Evergreen  
3 State College.

4 (3) "High-cost critical program" means an undergraduate or graduate  
5 certificate or degree program:

6 (a) In which the number of students per year prepared for  
7 employment from in-state programs is substantially fewer than the  
8 number of projected job openings per year in that field, either  
9 statewide or in a substate region;

10 (b) In which the documented cost of instruction is significantly  
11 higher than the median cost of instruction for other degree or  
12 certificate programs offered at the same institution of higher  
13 education;

14 (c) That prepares completers for professions with high job vacancy  
15 rates that are not anticipated to be alleviated without additional  
16 program capacity or by in-migration of educated workers from other  
17 states; and

18 (d) That is widely acknowledged to provide high public value.

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