
SENATE BILL 5043

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senators Kilmer, Kauffman, Shin, Rockefeller, Kastama, Kohl-Welles, Jarrett, Tom, and McAuliffe

Read first time 01/12/09. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a higher education coordination board
2 work group to develop a single, coordinated student access portal; and
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The higher education coordinating board
6 shall convene a work group to develop a plan to create a single,
7 coordinated, collaboratively supported, one-stop college information
8 web-based portal for students and families planning, preparing, and
9 applying for, as well as those attending, postsecondary education. The
10 purpose of the portal is to provide comprehensive information and
11 applications regarding financial, academic, and career planning,
12 admissions, scholarships, financial aid, as well as any other
13 information and services identified by the work group that would
14 encourage or aid students contemplating their postsecondary education
15 goals.

16 (2) The work group shall consist of representatives from the higher
17 education coordinating board, the state board for community and
18 technical colleges, the council of presidents, the workforce training
19 and education coordinating board, the independent colleges of

1 Washington, the office of the superintendent of public instruction,
2 representatives of the public, private, and private vocational colleges
3 in Washington, and others as may be needed.

4 (3) The work group shall:

5 (a) Investigate similar ongoing efforts in other states including
6 what information and services are typically offered, what agency takes
7 the lead in creating and maintaining the portal, what planning stages
8 and budgets are associated with portals, how portals are marketed to
9 maximize usefulness, and whether the states' efforts are increasing
10 postsecondary participation;

11 (b) Focus on a portal that is student-centered and does not
12 presuppose a sophisticated understanding of postsecondary education;

13 (c) Identify the resources necessary to build and maintain the
14 portal;

15 (d) Develop a plan that builds upon existing infrastructure
16 whenever possible; and

17 (e) Identify the metrics that can be used to gauge success.

18 (4) The final report of the work group shall:

19 (a) Recommend a process and timeline for the creation of the
20 portal;

21 (b) Identify costs and savings to students, families, and the
22 state;

23 (c) Identify potential issues and roadblocks anticipated in the
24 creation and maintenance of the portal; and

25 (d) Propose enabling legislative and administrative solutions.

26 (5) The board shall report to the legislature by December 1, 2009.

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