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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6357**

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**State of Washington**

**61st Legislature**

**2010 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Senators Kilmer, Becker, Shin, Rockefeller, McAuliffe, and Roach)

READ FIRST TIME 01/29/10.

1           AN ACT Relating to policies for the academic recognition of prior  
2 learning; and creating new sections.

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

4           NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that students often  
5 bring a wealth of formal and informal learning experiences from which  
6 they have benefited before enrolling at Washington institutions of  
7 higher education. The legislature further finds that many of these  
8 experiences may represent learning outcomes equivalent or superior to  
9 those achieved by students in more traditional academic settings. It  
10 is the intent of the legislature that Washington institutions of higher  
11 education develop valued, reliable, and transparent policies regarding  
12 the academic recognition of prior significant life and learning  
13 experiences to be consistently applied at all Washington institutions  
14 of higher education.

15           NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 2.** (1) The state board for community and  
16 technical colleges, in consultation with the higher education  
17 coordinating board, the workforce training and education coordinating  
18 board, the council of presidents, representatives from Washington

1 institutions of higher education, representatives from two and four-  
2 year faculty, representatives from private career schools, and  
3 representatives from business and labor, shall develop policies for  
4 awarding academic credit for learning from work and military  
5 experience, military and law enforcement training, career college  
6 training, internships and externships, and apprenticeships.

7 (2) The policies shall address, but are not limited to, issues  
8 regarding verification, accreditation, transfer of academic credit,  
9 licensing and professional recognition, and financial aid. To the  
10 greatest extent possible, the policies shall provide for consistent  
11 application by all institutions of higher education and a basis for  
12 accurate and complete academic counseling.

13 (3) Policies developed by the state board for community and  
14 technical colleges along with recommendations shall be submitted to the  
15 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 31, 2010.

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