

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 5442

C 108 L 11
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Requiring the development of three-year baccalaureate programs.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Senators Shin, Tom, Kilmer, White and Chase).

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

Background: Some public and private colleges and universities offer students the opportunity to obtain a baccalaureate degree in three years. The requirements of these accelerated baccalaureate programs vary. Frequently, these accelerated degree programs require summer school attendance, prior college credits earned during high school through such programs as Advanced Placement and Running Start, or enrollment for the maximum credits allowed per quarter.

The University of Washington (UW) has a program, called The Husky Advantage, that makes it easier for students entering the university with a high number of Advanced Placement or Running Start credits to complete a bachelor's degree in three years. Through careful planning and advising, these students can complete general education requirements and fulfill the requirements of certain majors, mostly in the College of Arts and Sciences.

The Evergreen State College (TESC) reports that 9 percent of those entering as first year students graduate in three years.

Summary: The state and regional universities and TESC may develop accelerated baccalaureate degree programs that will allow academically qualified students to obtain a baccalaureate degree in three years without attending summer classes or enrolling in more than a full-time class load during the regular academic year. Qualified students in such programs must be allowed to begin course work within their academic field during their first term or semester of enrollment.

The universities and TESC must report on their plans for these accelerated programs to the Higher Education Coordinating Board for approval.

Votes on Final Passage:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Senate 46 3
House 91 3

Effective: July 22, 2011.