
SENATE BILL 5616

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Tom, Litzow, McAuliffe, Hill, and Shin; by request of Governor Gregoire

Read first time 02/01/11. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to the opportunity to earn postsecondary credit
2 during high school; amending RCW 28A.230.130; adding a new section to
3 chapter 28B.10 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28B.76 RCW; and
4 creating new sections.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that approximately
7 thirty-five percent of seniors in Washington high schools take less
8 than a full load of classes during their senior year. The legislature
9 further finds that many high schools provide students opportunities to
10 take advanced courses in career and technical or academic fields that
11 give students a head start when they begin their career or enter a
12 technical training program or a college or university. The legislature
13 also finds that since each individual institution of higher education
14 adopts its own rules for awarding credit for advanced high school work,
15 students can encounter unanticipated barriers to advancing their
16 dreams. Students can also be discouraged from putting in that extra
17 effort in high school if they are not certain whether their extra work
18 will be appropriately credited toward a certificate or degree.

1 The legislature intends to help students progress from high school
2 to a certificate or degree by increasing opportunities and providing a
3 clear pathway. Twelfth grade will truly be the launch year as high
4 schools increase the opportunities for students to take more advanced
5 classes. In addition, this act provides for community and technical
6 colleges and four-year institutions of higher education to publish a
7 list of high school courses and adopt uniform scores for proficiency
8 exams or competency requirements that will be given credit toward
9 certificate or degree requirements.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.130 and 2009 c 212 s 2 are each amended to
11 read as follows:

12 (1) All public high schools of the state shall provide a program,
13 directly or in cooperation with a community college or another school
14 district, for students whose educational plans include application for
15 entrance to a baccalaureate-granting institution after being granted a
16 high school diploma. The program shall help these students to meet at
17 least the minimum entrance requirements under RCW 28B.10.050.

18 (2) All public high schools of the state shall provide a program,
19 directly or in cooperation with a community or technical college, a
20 skills center, an apprenticeship committee, or another school district,
21 for students who plan to pursue career or work opportunities other than
22 entrance to a baccalaureate-granting institution after being granted a
23 high school diploma. These programs may:

24 (a) Help students demonstrate the application of essential academic
25 learning requirements to the world of work, occupation-specific skills,
26 knowledge of more than one career in a chosen pathway, and
27 employability and leadership skills; and

28 (b) Help students demonstrate the knowledge and skill needed to
29 prepare for industry certification, and/or have the opportunity to
30 articulate to postsecondary education and training programs.

31 (3) Within existing resources, all public high schools in the state
32 shall:

33 (a) Work towards the goal of offering a sufficient number of high
34 school courses that give students the opportunity to earn the
35 equivalent of a year's worth of postsecondary credit towards a
36 certificate, apprenticeship program, technical degree, or associate or
37 baccalaureate degree; and

1 (b) Inform students and their families, emphasizing communication
2 to underrepresented groups, about the program offerings and the
3 opportunities to take courses that qualify for postsecondary credit.
4 This information shall encourage students to use the twelfth grade as
5 the launch year for an advance start on their career and postsecondary
6 education.

7 (4) A middle school that receives approval from the office of the
8 superintendent of public instruction to provide a career and technical
9 program in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics directly to
10 students shall receive funding at the same rate as a high school
11 operating a similar program. Additionally, a middle school that
12 provides a hands-on experience in science, technology, engineering, or
13 mathematics with an integrated curriculum of academic content and
14 career and technical education, and includes a career and technical
15 education exploratory component shall also qualify for the career and
16 technical education funding.

17 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 28B.10 RCW
18 to read as follows:

19 (1) By December 1, 2011, and by June of each odd-numbered year
20 thereafter, the institutions of higher education shall collaboratively
21 develop a master list of postsecondary courses that can be fulfilled by
22 taking the college proficiency examinations and meeting the agreed-upon
23 examination score or demonstrated competencies. The master list of
24 postsecondary courses fulfilled by proficiency examinations or
25 demonstrated competencies are those that fulfill lower division general
26 education requirements or career and technical education requirements
27 and qualify for postsecondary credit. From the master list, each
28 institution shall create and publish a list of its courses that can be
29 satisfied by successful proficiency examination scores or demonstrated
30 competencies.

31 (2) Institutions of higher education shall agree on examination
32 qualifying scores and demonstrated competencies. Each institution
33 shall use the same examination qualifying score and demonstrated
34 competencies. The examination qualifying scores and demonstrated
35 competencies shall be included in the published list under subsection
36 (1) of this section.

1 (3) Each institution of higher education, in designing its
2 certificate, technical degree program, two-year academic transfer
3 program, or freshman and sophomore courses of a baccalaureate program,
4 must recognize the equivalencies of at least one year of course credit
5 that can be earned through successfully demonstrating proficiency on
6 examinations, including but not limited to advanced placement and
7 international baccalaureate examinations. The successful completion of
8 the examination and the award of credit shall be noted on the student's
9 college transcript.

10 (4) Each institution of higher education must clearly include in
11 its admissions materials and on its web site the institution's list of
12 postsecondary courses that can be fulfilled by proficiency examinations
13 or demonstrated competencies and the agreed-upon examination scores and
14 demonstrated competencies that qualify for postsecondary credit. Each
15 institution must provide the information to the higher education
16 coordinating board and state board for community and technical colleges
17 in a form that the superintendent of public instruction is able to
18 distribute to school districts.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.76 RCW
20 to read as follows:

21 The higher education coordinating board shall annually publish on
22 its web site the agreed-upon list of high school courses qualifying for
23 postsecondary credit under section 3 of this act and examination
24 qualifying scores and demonstrated competencies meeting the
25 postsecondary requirements for a certificate or technical degree, a
26 two-year academic transfer degree, or the lower division requirements
27 for a baccalaureate degree.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act may be known and cited as the
29 launch year act.

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