
ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5974

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2011 2nd Special Session

By Senators Tom, Litzow, Kilmer, Fain, Hewitt, Chase, and Kohl-
Welles; by request of Governor Gregoire

Read first time 12/07/11. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to demonstrating college level skills; and amending
2 RCW 28B.10.053.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.10.053 and 2011 c 77 s 3 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) By December 1, 2011, and by June of each odd-numbered year
7 thereafter, the institutions of higher education shall collaboratively
8 develop a master list of postsecondary courses that can be fulfilled by
9 taking the advanced placement, international baccalaureate, or other
10 recognized college-level proficiency examinations, including but not
11 limited to examinations by a national multidisciplinary science,
12 technology, engineering, and mathematics program, and meeting the
13 qualifying examination score or demonstrated competencies for lower
14 division general education requirements or postsecondary professional
15 technical requirements. The master list of postsecondary courses
16 fulfilled by proficiency examinations or demonstrated competencies are
17 those that fulfill lower division general education requirements or
18 career and technical education requirements and qualify for
19 postsecondary credit. From the master list, each institution shall

1 create and publish a list of its courses that can be satisfied by
2 successful proficiency examination scores or demonstrated competencies
3 for lower division general education requirements or postsecondary
4 professional technical requirements. The qualifying examination scores
5 and demonstrated competencies shall be included in the published list.
6 The requirements to develop a master list under this section do not
7 apply if an institution has a clearly published policy of awarding
8 credit for the advanced placement, international baccalaureate, or
9 other recognized college-level placement exams and does not require
10 those credits to meet specific course requirements but generally
11 applies those credits towards degree requirements.

12 (2) To the maximum extent possible, institutions of higher
13 education shall agree on examination qualifying scores and demonstrated
14 competencies for the credits or courses under subsection (3) of this
15 section, with scores equivalent to qualified or well-qualified.
16 Nothing in this subsection shall prevent an institution of higher
17 education from adopting policies using higher scores for additional
18 purposes.

19 (3) Each institution of higher education, in designing its
20 certificate, technical degree program, two-year academic transfer
21 program, or freshman and sophomore courses of a baccalaureate program
22 or baccalaureate degree, must recognize the equivalencies of at least
23 one year of course credit and maximize the application of the credits
24 toward lower division general education requirements that can be earned
25 through successfully demonstrating proficiency on examinations,
26 including but not limited to advanced placement and international
27 baccalaureate examinations. The successful completion of the
28 examination and the award of credit shall be noted on the student's
29 college transcript.

30 (4) Each institution of higher education must clearly include in
31 its admissions materials and on its web site the credits or the
32 institution's list of postsecondary courses that can be fulfilled by
33 proficiency examinations or demonstrated competencies and the agreed-
34 upon examination scores and demonstrated competencies that qualify for
35 postsecondary credit. Each institution must provide the information to
36 the higher education coordinating board and state board for community

1 and technical colleges in a form that the superintendent of public
2 instruction is able to distribute to school districts.

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