
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2352

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By House Higher Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Sawyer, Warnick, Seaquist, Walsh, Johnson, Manweller, Sells, Riccelli, Reykdal, Ryu, Morrell, Zeiger, Tarleton, and Freeman)

READ FIRST TIME 01/31/14.

1 AN ACT Relating to an online alternative credit degree program;
2 adding a new section to chapter 28B.35 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.35 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) An online alternative credit degree program that awards degrees
7 based on an alternative credit model is established. This program is
8 intended to position the state to meet baccalaureate degree production
9 goals and to serve nontraditional students who may already hold some
10 postsecondary academic credits or life experience that can count
11 towards a degree.

12 (2) Students targeted for enrollment in this program include:

13 (a) Students who are early learning providers, to help expand
14 professional degree holders in the field;

15 (b) Veterans returning to civilian life with education, knowledge,
16 and skills acquired during military service;

17 (c) Students transferring from another college or university;

18 (d) High school students who are college bound;

1 (e) Students who come to a university or college with academic
2 credits earned through dual credit programs such as running start,
3 international baccalaureate, AP, college in the high school, and other
4 programs;

5 (f) Individuals who have completed education and training programs
6 provided by an employer;

7 (g) Individuals who have acquired knowledge and work experience on
8 the job or through an internship; and

9 (h) Individuals who have acquired some postsecondary academic
10 credit, but whose commitments to work or family prohibit degree
11 completion in a traditional baccalaureate setting.

12 (3) Central Washington University shall host the online alternative
13 credit degree program. In order to develop the program the university
14 shall:

15 (a) Communicate with community and business leaders to identify and
16 deliver needed programs;

17 (b) Develop and launch curricula and programs in response to the
18 needs of business and students;

19 (c) Evaluate and offer credit for student learning already acquired
20 outside of academic settings;

21 (d) Develop a delivery model that provides flexibility for working
22 students in place of a traditional instructional model and pace;

23 (e) Coordinate with other K-20 education providers; and

24 (f) Identify strategies to enhance baccalaureate aspirations in
25 underserved communities.

26 (4) Central Washington University shall consult with the department
27 of early learning for the purposes of targeting students who are early
28 learning providers in subsection (2)(a) of this section and developing
29 programs in subsection (3) of this section.

30 (5) Central Washington University shall report annually by December
31 1st to the higher education committees of the legislature on progress
32 in implementing the program and recommendations for improvement or
33 expansion.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
35 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by

1 June 30, 2014, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
2 void.

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