
SENATE BILL 6042

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senators Baumgartner, Brown, and Schoesler

Read first time 01/15/14. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing an incentive-based methodology of
2 distributing state appropriations to public four-year institutions of
3 higher education; amending RCW 28B.15.101; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that a robust public
6 postsecondary educational system benefits Washingtonians throughout the
7 state, and that the individual and combined success of the people of
8 Washington, and in turn the vitality of business across the state, rely
9 overwhelmingly on the quality and efficiency of the state's higher
10 education system.

11 The legislature recognizes that there is currently an estimated gap
12 of twenty-five thousand skilled workers in Washington, eighty percent
13 of whom are in high-demand fields, and that this gap is projected to
14 double by 2017. The legislature further recognizes that filling the
15 job skills gap by 2017 could result in one hundred sixty thousand new
16 jobs in the state. As a result, the legislature finds that the
17 statewide goals of public institutions of higher education are to: (1)
18 Increase total degree production; (2) increase degree production in

1 high-demand fields of study; and (3) increase degree production for
2 underrepresented student populations.

3 Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to create an
4 incentive funding structure that encourages student success through the
5 postsecondary educational system. To do this, it is the intent of the
6 legislature that a state funding enhancement equal to no less than
7 twenty-five million dollars each fiscal year be available for
8 distribution to the public four-year institutions of higher education
9 based on their performance in meeting the statewide goals. It is the
10 intent of the legislature that this funding enhancement be an addition
11 to the baseline budgets of public four-year institutions of higher
12 education and that, in subsequent fiscal years, this amount will be
13 redistributed to the public four-year institutions of higher education
14 based on their performance in meeting the statewide goals.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.15.101 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 10 s 5 are each
16 amended to read as follows:

17 ~~((1) To ensure institutional quality, promote access, and advance
18 the public mission of the state universities, the regional
19 universities, and The Evergreen State College, the authority to
20 increase or decrease tuition rates shall be considered within the
21 context of performance-based measures and goals for each state
22 university, regional university, and The Evergreen State College. By
23 September 1, 2011, and September 1st every two years thereafter, the
24 state universities, the regional universities, and The Evergreen State
25 College shall each negotiate an institutional performance plan with the
26 office of financial management that includes expected outcomes that
27 must be achieved by each institution in the subsequent biennium.~~

28 ~~(2) At a minimum, an individual institutional performance plan must
29 include but is not limited to the following expected outcomes:~~

30 ~~(a) Time and credits to degree;~~

31 ~~(b) Retention and success of students from low income, diverse, or
32 underrepresented communities;~~

33 ~~(c) Baccalaureate degree production for resident students; and~~

34 ~~(d) Degree production in high employer demand programs of study and
35 critical state need areas.))~~ It is the policy of the state of

36 Washington that incentive funding appropriated in the omnibus
37 appropriations act shall be distributed to the public four-year

1 institutions of higher education as specified in the omnibus
2 appropriations act and shall be based on an institution's performance
3 in relation to its own past performance using a three-year average in
4 the following metrics:

5 (1) Number of degrees produced;

6 (2) Number of high-demand degrees produced; and

7 (3) Number of degrees awarded to underrepresented students.

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