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HOUSE BILL 1400

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Halper, Pollet, Zeiger, Van Werven, Bergquist, Stambaugh, Buys, Hargrove, Muri, Condotta, and Tharinger

Read first time 01/20/15. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing transparency in higher education by  
2 requiring certain budgeting information to be available online;  
3 adding a new section to chapter 28B.10 RCW; and creating a new  
4 section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that transparency in  
7 higher education budgeting is essential to the maintenance of public  
8 trust in the higher education system. Such transparency is not only  
9 an appropriate check on future higher education cost increases, it  
10 should also counteract any perception that public institutions are  
11 not adequately accountable for student and taxpayer dollars.  
12 Therefore, to ensure general accessibility to meaningful budget  
13 information and to improve public confidence in the system, the  
14 legislature intends to require that departmental budgets of  
15 institutions of higher education be posted on the education data  
16 center's data dashboard.

17 The legislature finds that placing the responsibility for posting  
18 departmental budgets of institutions of higher education on the  
19 education data center takes advantage of the independence, expertise,  
20 and technology base within the education data center. The legislature  
21 intends that the education data center use information that is

1 already public, so as to minimize the costs to the education data  
2 center.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 The education data center, established in RCW 43.41.400, shall  
6 post on the education data center's data dashboard, established under  
7 RCW 28B.77.090, the department-level budgets, including budget  
8 planning and expenditures, of the institutions of higher education.  
9 For institutions of higher education without a department structure,  
10 the education data center shall post comparable budget information.  
11 The education data center shall post department-level budget plans  
12 and budget expenditures to the data dashboard within sixty days of an  
13 institution of higher education's adoption of its annual fiscal  
14 budget plan and completion of its fiscal year budget. The education  
15 data center is responsible for obtaining the budget and spending data  
16 from each institution of higher education, and for developing the  
17 format used to display the budget information.

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