
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2691

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By House Higher Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Pollet, Manweller, Sells, Zeiger, Tarleton, Haler, and Kilduff)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/16.

1 AN ACT Relating to Central Washington University's fifth year
2 promise; adding a new section to chapter 28B.35 RCW; adding a new
3 section to chapter 28B.15 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that students'
6 ability to graduate is often seriously impacted by the lack of access
7 to advising, degree completion tools, the lack of capacity or
8 availability of required courses needed for degree completion, and
9 the lack of information about specific degree or program requirements
10 and when those are offered. In addition, student indebtedness may be
11 increased and students may lose limited financial aid when they are
12 not able to graduate in four years. The legislature finds that there
13 are software and advising programs available that can reduce the
14 likelihood of these impacts.

15 (2) The legislature commends Central Washington University's
16 willingness to guarantee that any student in a four-year degree
17 program who commits to following a pathway outlined by advisors and
18 degree-planner software, but does not graduate in four years, will be
19 able to enroll in his or her remaining required courses for free in
20 the fifth year. The legislature supports this promise and intends for

1 it to serve as an innovative pilot for other institutions of higher
2 education.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.35
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) Central Washington University is authorized to offer a
6 program that promises that a student enrolled in a four-year
7 baccalaureate degree program will graduate within four years or
8 Central Washington University will allow the student to enroll in his
9 or her remaining required courses for free in the fifth year, as long
10 as the student:

11 (a) Commits to following a degree pathway developed in
12 conjunction with his or her advisor and degree-planner software;

13 (b) Attempts to enroll in courses required for his or her degree
14 program pursuant to the plan developed in (a) of this subsection when
15 those courses are offered; and

16 (c) Maintains satisfactory academic progress.

17 (2) Central Washington University shall use local funds to
18 support its commitment to provide free enrollment in remaining
19 courses for a student meeting the description in subsection (1) of
20 this section.

21 (3) Subject to an appropriation provided for this subsection,
22 Central Washington University shall purchase a degree-planner
23 software package that provides students and staff with an online
24 interface to track degree requirements, student progress, and
25 forecast personnel, lab, and classroom space needs.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.15
27 RCW to read as follows:

28 Subject to the limitations of RCW 28B.15.910, the governing board
29 of Central Washington University may waive all or a portion of the
30 tuition fees and services and activities fees for students qualifying
31 for Central Washington University's fifth year promise, as authorized
32 in section 2 of this act.

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