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**SENATE BILL 5122**

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**State of Washington**                      **64th Legislature**                      **2015 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Kohl-Welles, Frockt, Lias, Bailey, and McAuliffe

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

1            AN ACT Relating to precollege placement measures; amending RCW  
2 28B.77.020; and adding a new section to chapter 28B.10 RCW.

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.10  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6            State universities, regional universities, and The Evergreen  
7 State College may use multiple measures to determine whether a  
8 student must enroll in a precollege course including, but not limited  
9 to, placement tests, the SAT, high school transcripts, college  
10 transcripts, or initial class performance. Additionally, state  
11 universities, regional universities, and The Evergreen State College  
12 must post all the available options for course placement on their web  
13 sites and in their admissions materials.

14            **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.77.020 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 25 s 6 are each  
15 amended to read as follows:

16            (1) Aligned with the state's biennial budget and policy cycles,  
17 the council shall propose educational attainment goals and priorities  
18 to meet the state's evolving needs. The council shall identify  
19 strategies for meeting the goals and priorities by means of a short-

1 term strategic action plan and a ten-year plan that serves as a  
2 roadmap.

3 (a) The goals must address the needs of Washington residents to  
4 reach higher levels of educational attainment and Washington's  
5 workforce needs for certificates and degrees in particular fields of  
6 study.

7 (b) The council shall identify the resources it deems appropriate  
8 to meet statewide goals and also recognize current state economic  
9 conditions and state resources.

10 (c) In proposing goals, the council shall collaborate with the  
11 superintendent of public instruction, the professional educator  
12 standards board, the state board of education, the state board for  
13 community and technical colleges, the four-year institutions of  
14 higher education, independent colleges and degree-granting  
15 institutions, certificate-granting institutions, and the workforce  
16 training and education coordinating board.

17 (2) The council shall update the strategic action plan every two  
18 years with the first strategic action plan to be submitted to the  
19 governor and the legislature by December 1, 2012. The ten-year  
20 roadmap must be updated every two years with the first roadmap to be  
21 submitted to the governor and the legislature by December 1, 2013.  
22 The council must provide regular updates to the joint higher  
23 education committee created in RCW 44.04.360 as needed.

24 (3) In order to develop the ten-year roadmap, the council shall  
25 conduct strategic planning in collaboration with agencies and  
26 stakeholders and include input from the legislature. The council must  
27 also consult with the STEM education innovation alliance established  
28 under RCW 28A.188.030 in order to align strategies under the roadmap  
29 with the STEM framework for education and accountability developed by  
30 the alliance. The roadmap must encompass all sectors of higher  
31 education, including secondary to postsecondary transitions. The  
32 roadmap must outline strategies that address:

33 (a) Strategic planning, which includes setting benchmarks and  
34 goals for long-term degree production generally and in particular  
35 fields of study;

36 (b) Expanding access, affordability, quality, efficiency, and  
37 accountability among the various institutions of higher education;

38 (c) Higher education finance planning and strategic investments  
39 including budget recommendations necessary to meet statewide goals;

40 (d) System design and coordination;

1 (e) Improving student transitions;

2 (f) Higher education data and analysis, in collaboration with the  
3 education data center, which includes outcomes for recruitment,  
4 retention, and success of students;

5 (g) College and career access preparedness, in collaboration with  
6 the office of the superintendent of public instruction and the state  
7 board of education;

8 (h) Expanding participation and success for racial and ethnic  
9 minorities in higher education;

10 (i) Development and expansion of innovations in higher education  
11 including innovations to increase attainment of postsecondary  
12 certificates, and associate, baccalaureate, graduate, and  
13 professional degrees; and innovations to improve precollege education  
14 in terms of cost-effectiveness and transitions to college-level  
15 education;

16 (j) Strengthening the education pipeline and degree production in  
17 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields, and  
18 aligning strategies under the roadmap with the STEM framework for  
19 action and accountability developed under RCW 28A.188.030; and

20 (k) Relevant policy research.

21 (4) As needed, the council must conduct system reviews consistent  
22 with RCW 28B.77.080.

23 (5) The council shall facilitate the development and expansion of  
24 innovative practices within, between, and among the sectors to  
25 increase educational attainment and assess the effectiveness of the  
26 innovations.

27 (6) The council shall use the data and analysis produced by, and  
28 in consultation with, the education data center created in RCW  
29 43.41.400 in developing policy recommendations and proposing goals.  
30 In conducting research and analysis the council at a minimum must:

31 (a) Identify barriers to increasing educational attainment,  
32 evaluate effectiveness of various educational models, identify best  
33 practices, and recommend methods to overcome barriers;

34 (b) Analyze data from multiple sources including data from  
35 academic research and from areas and agencies outside of education  
36 including but not limited to data from the department of health, the  
37 department of corrections, and the department of social and health  
38 services to determine best practices to remove barriers and to  
39 improve educational attainment;

1 (c) Assess educational achievement disaggregated by income level,  
2 age, gender, race and ethnicity, country of origin, and other  
3 relevant demographic groups working with data from the education data  
4 center;

5 (d) Track progress toward meeting the state's goals;

6 (e) Communicate results and provide access to data analysis to  
7 policymakers, the superintendent of public instruction, institutions  
8 of higher education, students, and the public; and

9 (f) Use data from the education data center wherever appropriate  
10 to conduct duties in (a) through (e) of this subsection.

11 (7) The council shall collaborate with the appropriate state  
12 agencies and stakeholders, including the state board of education,  
13 the office of the superintendent of public instruction, the state  
14 board for community and technical colleges, the workforce training  
15 and education coordinating board, and the four-year institutions of  
16 higher education to improve student transitions and success including  
17 but not limited to:

18 (a) Setting minimum college admission standards for four-year  
19 institutions of higher education, including:

20 (i) A requirement that coursework in American sign language or an  
21 American Indian language satisfies any requirement for instruction in  
22 a language other than English that the council or the institutions  
23 may establish as a general undergraduate admissions requirement; and

24 (ii) Encouragement of the use of multiple measures to determine  
25 whether a student must enroll in a precollege course, such as  
26 placement tests, the SAT, high school transcripts, college  
27 transcripts, or initial class performance;

28 (b) Proposing comprehensive policies and programs to encourage  
29 students to prepare for, understand how to access, and pursue  
30 postsecondary college and career programs, including specific  
31 policies and programs for students with disabilities;

32 (c) Recommending policies that require coordination between or  
33 among sectors such as dual high school-college programs, awarding  
34 college credit for advanced high school work, and transfer between  
35 two and four-year institutions of higher education or between  
36 different four-year institutions of higher education; and

37 (d) Identifying transitions issues and solutions for students,  
38 from high school to postsecondary education including community and  
39 technical colleges, four-year institutions of higher education,  
40 apprenticeships, training, or workplace education; between two-year

1 and four-year institutions of higher education; and from  
2 postsecondary education to career. In addressing these issues the  
3 council must recognize that these transitions may occur multiple  
4 times as students continue their education.

5 (8) The council directs the work of the office, which includes  
6 administration of student financial aid programs under RCW  
7 28B.76.090, including the state need grant and other scholarships,  
8 the Washington advanced college tuition payment program, and work-  
9 study programs.

10 (9) The council may administer state and federal grants and  
11 programs including but not limited to those programs that provide  
12 incentives for improvements related to increased access and success  
13 in postsecondary education.

14 (10) The council shall protect higher education consumers  
15 including:

16 (a) Approving degree-granting postsecondary institutions  
17 consistent with existing statutory criteria;

18 (b) Establishing minimum criteria to assess whether students who  
19 attend proprietary institutions of higher education shall be eligible  
20 for the state need grant and other forms of state financial aid.

21 (i) The criteria shall include retention rates, completion rates,  
22 loan default rates, and annual tuition increases, among other  
23 criteria for students who receive state need grant as in chapter  
24 28B.92 RCW and any other state financial aid.

25 (ii) The council may remove proprietary institutions of higher  
26 education from eligibility for the state need grant or other form of  
27 state financial aid if it finds that the institution or college does  
28 not meet minimum criteria.

29 (iii) The council shall report by December 1, 2014, to the joint  
30 higher education committee in RCW 44.04.360 on the outcomes of  
31 students receiving state need grants, impacts on meeting the state's  
32 higher education goals for educational attainment, and options for  
33 prioritization of the state need grant and possible consequences of  
34 implementing each option. When examining options for prioritizing the  
35 state need grant the council shall consider awarding grants based on  
36 need rather than date of application and making awards based on other  
37 criteria selected by the council.

38 (11) The council shall adopt residency requirements by rule.

39 (12) The council shall arbitrate disputes between and among four-  
40 year institutions of higher education and the state board for

1 community and technical colleges at the request of one or more of the  
2 institutions involved, or at the request of the governor, or from a  
3 resolution adopted by the legislature. The decision of the council  
4 shall be binding on the participants in the dispute.

5 (13) The council may solicit, accept, receive, and administer  
6 federal funds or private funds, in trust, or otherwise, and contract  
7 with foundations or with for-profit or nonprofit organizations to  
8 support the purposes and functions of the council.

9 (14) The council shall represent the broad public interest above  
10 the interests of the individual institutions of higher education.

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