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SENATE BILL 6466

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Senators Habib, Dammeier, Darneille, Lias, Roach, Keiser, Frockt, Becker, Hasegawa, Conway, and McAuliffe

Read first time 01/21/16. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to student services for students with  
2 disabilities; amending RCW 28B.10.912 and 28B.10.914; and adding new  
3 sections to chapter 28B.10 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The institutions of higher education shall each adopt the  
8 uniform disabilities application created by section 4 of this act.

9 (2) The institutions of higher education shall each use the  
10 uniform disabilities application, adopted pursuant to subsection (1)  
11 of this section, for determining a student, transfer student, or  
12 prospective student's eligibility for core services or other  
13 disability-related accommodations at the institution of higher  
14 education attended by the student or for which the student is  
15 applying to attend. The uniform disabilities application used by the  
16 institutions of higher education shall each contain the same  
17 questions and require the same supporting documentation so as to  
18 ensure systemwide uniformity.

19 (3) The institutions of higher education shall each post the  
20 uniform disabilities application on the institution's admissions web  
21 page, in conjunction with the institution's application documents.

1 The institutions of higher education shall also post the uniform  
2 disabilities application on any web page containing resources for  
3 students with disabilities.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.10.912 and 1994 c 105 s 3 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) Each institution of higher education shall ensure that  
7 students with disabilities are reasonably accommodated within that  
8 institution. The institution of higher education shall provide  
9 students with disabilities with the appropriate core service or  
10 services necessary to ensure equal access. Each institution shall  
11 notify transfer students of their eligibility for receiving the same  
12 core services that were provided while previously attending another  
13 in-state institution.

14 (2) Core services shall include, but not be limited to:

15 ~~((1))~~ (a) Flexible procedures in the admissions process that  
16 use a holistic review of the student's potential, including  
17 appropriate consideration in statewide and institutional alternative  
18 admissions programs;

19 ~~((2))~~ (b) Early registration or priority registration;

20 ~~((3))~~ (c) Sign language, oral and tactile interpreter services,  
21 or other technological alternatives;

22 ~~((4))~~ (d) Textbooks and other educational materials in  
23 alternative media, including, but not limited to, large print,  
24 braille, electronic format, and audiotape;

25 ~~((5))~~ (e) Provision of readers, notetakers, scribes, and  
26 proofreaders including recruitment, training, and coordination;

27 ~~((6))~~ (f) Ongoing review and coordination of efforts to improve  
28 campus accessibility, including but not limited to, all aspects of  
29 barrier-free design, signage, high-contrast identification of hazards  
30 of mobility barriers, maintenance of access during construction, snow  
31 and ice clearance, and adequate disability parking for all  
32 facilities;

33 ~~((7))~~ (g) Facilitation of physical access including, but not  
34 limited to, relocating of classes, activities, and services to  
35 accessible facilities and orientation if route of travel needs  
36 change, such as at the beginning of a quarter or semester;

37 ~~((8))~~ (h) Access to adaptive equipment including, but not  
38 limited to, TDDs, FM communicators, closed caption devices, amplified  
39 telephone receivers, closed circuit televisions, low-vision reading

1 aids, player/recorders for 15/16 4-track tapes, photocopy machines  
2 able to use eleven-by-seventeen inch paper, braille devices, and  
3 computer enhancements;

4 ~~((9))~~ (i) Referral to appropriate on-campus and off-campus  
5 resources, services, and agencies;

6 ~~((10))~~ (j) Release of syllabi, study guides, and other  
7 appropriate instructor-produced materials in advance of general  
8 distribution, and access beyond the regular classroom session to  
9 slides, films, overheads and other media and taping of lectures;

10 ~~((11))~~ (k) Accessibility for students with disabilities to  
11 tutoring, mentoring, peer counseling, and academic advising that are  
12 available on campus;

13 ~~((12))~~ (l) Flexibility in test taking arrangements;

14 ~~((13))~~ (m) Referral to the appropriate entity for diagnostic  
15 assessment and documentation of the disability;

16 ~~((14))~~ (n) Flexibility in timelines for completion of courses,  
17 certification, and degree requirements;

18 ~~((15))~~ (o) Flexibility in credits required to be taken to  
19 satisfy institutional eligibility for financial aid; and

20 ~~((16))~~ (p) Notification of the institution of higher  
21 education's policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of disability  
22 and of steps the student may take if he or she believes  
23 discrimination has taken place. This notice shall be included in all  
24 formal correspondence that communicates decisions or policies  
25 adversely affecting the student's status or rights with the  
26 institution of higher education. This notice shall include the phone  
27 numbers of the United States department of education, the United  
28 States office of civil rights, and the Washington state human rights  
29 commission.

30 (3) The institutions of higher education shall provide all  
31 students who transfer from another institution of higher education  
32 and who had received a core service at their prior institution, with  
33 at least the same core services upon the student's acceptance at the  
34 institution, without the student having to reapply for the services  
35 at that institution.

36 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.10.914 and 1994 c 105 s 4 are each amended to  
37 read as follows:

38 (1) Reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities shall  
39 be provided as appropriate for all aspects of college and university

1 life, including but not limited to: Recruitment, the application  
2 process, enrollment, registration, financial aid, coursework,  
3 research, academic counseling, housing programs owned or operated by  
4 the institution of higher education, and nonacademic programs and  
5 services. Each institution shall notify transfer students of their  
6 eligibility for receiving the same accommodations that were provided  
7 while previously attending another in-state institution.

8 (2) The institutions of higher education shall provide all  
9 students who transfer from a different in-state institution of higher  
10 education and who had received a reasonable accommodation at their  
11 prior institution, with at least the same reasonable accommodations  
12 upon the student's acceptance at the institution, without the student  
13 having to reapply for the accommodations at that institution.

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

16 (1) By December 31, 2016, the student achievement council and  
17 state board for community and technical colleges shall draft and  
18 adopt a uniform disabilities application for determining a student's  
19 or prospective student's eligibility for disability services at any  
20 of the institutions of higher education. The disabilities application  
21 must include:

22 (a) Questions used to identify the applicant, including name,  
23 birthdate, address, social security number, and any other relevant  
24 identifying information;

25 (b) Questions necessary to determine if the applicant has a  
26 physical or mental impairment as defined by the Americans with  
27 disabilities act, or any applicable state laws;

28 (c) Questions necessary to determine if the applicant is eligible  
29 for core services or any other accommodations from any of the  
30 institutions of higher education; and

31 (d) Information regarding any supporting documentation that an  
32 applicant must submit as part of the application.

33 (2) The student achievement council and state board for community  
34 and technical colleges shall jointly submit the uniform disabilities  
35 application to the higher education committees of the legislature and  
36 the student achievement council disability task force by January 1,  
37 2017.

38 (3) The institutions of higher education shall each adopt the  
39 uniform disabilities application created in subsection (1) of this

1 section before the start of the 2017-18 academic year, for use as the  
2 sole application for determining a student's eligibility for  
3 disability services at that institution.

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