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HOUSE BILL 2089

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State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Kraft, Van Werven, Gildon, Griffey, and Graham

Read first time 02/18/19. Referred to Committee on College & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing transparency and financial  
2 accountability in higher education to students, parents, and  
3 taxpayers; amending RCW 28B.77.090; creating a new section; providing  
4 an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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 of  
11 higher education are not adequately accountable for student and  
12 taxpayer dollars. Therefore, to ensure general accessibility to  
13 meaningful budget information and to improve public confidence in the  
14 system, the legislature intends to require that administrative,  
15 academic, and auxiliary unit budgets of the public four-year  
16 institutions of higher education are posted on the education data  
17 center's data dashboard. The legislature intends that the public  
18 four-year institutions of higher education include a link to the unit  
19 budgets in a visible, easy to locate section on the institution's web  
20 site, along with a clear description of the information that can be  
21 found at the link. This will help the institutions of higher

1 education increase transparency and accountability to the students,  
2 parents, and taxpayers they serve.

3 The legislature finds that placing the responsibility for posting  
4 unit budgets within the education data center takes advantage of the  
5 independence, expertise, and technology base within the education  
6 data center. The legislature intends that the education data center  
7 use information that is already being collected by the four-year  
8 public institutions of higher education for their own budgeting  
9 purposes and for the education data center.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.77.090 and 2013 c 23 s 60 are each amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 (1) An accountability monitoring and reporting system is  
13 established as part of a continuing effort to make meaningful and  
14 substantial progress towards the achievement of long-term performance  
15 goals in higher education.

16 (2) To provide consistent, easily understood data among the  
17 public four-year institutions of higher education within Washington  
18 and in other states, the following data must be reported to the  
19 education data center annually by December 1st, and at a minimum  
20 include data recommended by a national organization representing  
21 state chief executives. The education data center in consultation  
22 with the council may change the data requirements to be consistent  
23 with best practices across the country. This data must, to the  
24 maximum extent possible, be disaggregated by race and ethnicity,  
25 gender, state and county of origin, age, and socioeconomic status,  
26 and include the following for the four-year institutions of higher  
27 education:

28 (a) Bachelor's degrees awarded;

29 (b) Graduate and professional degrees awarded;

30 (c) Graduation rates: The number and percentage of students who  
31 graduate within four years for bachelor's degrees and within the  
32 extended time, which is six years for bachelor's degrees;

33 (d) Transfer rates: The annual number and percentage of students  
34 who transfer from a two-year to a four-year institution of higher  
35 education;

36 (e) Time and credits to degree: The average length of time in  
37 years and average number of credits that graduating students took to  
38 earn a bachelor's degree;

1 (f) Enrollment in remedial education: The number and percentage  
2 of entering first-time undergraduate students who place into and  
3 enroll in remedial mathematics, English, or both;

4 (g) Success beyond remedial education: The number and percentage  
5 of entering first-time undergraduate students who complete entry  
6 college-level math and English courses within the first two  
7 consecutive academic years;

8 (h) Credit accumulation: The number and percentage of first-time  
9 undergraduate students completing two quarters or one semester worth  
10 of credit during their first academic year;

11 (i) Retention rates: The number and percentage of entering  
12 undergraduate students who enroll consecutively from fall-to-spring  
13 and fall-to-fall at an institution of higher education;

14 (j) Course completion: The percentage of credit hours completed  
15 out of those attempted during an academic year;

16 (k) Program participation and degree completion rates in bachelor  
17 and advanced degree programs in the sciences, which includes  
18 agriculture and natural resources, biology and biomedical sciences,  
19 computer and information sciences, engineering and engineering  
20 technologies, health professions and clinical sciences, mathematics  
21 and statistics, and physical sciences and science technologies,  
22 including participation and degree completion rates for students from  
23 traditionally underrepresented populations;

24 (l) Annual enrollment: Annual unduplicated number of students  
25 enrolled over a twelve-month period at institutions of higher  
26 education including by student level;

27 (m) Annual first-time enrollment: Total first-time students  
28 enrolled in a four-year institution of higher education;

29 (n) Completion ratio: Annual ratio of undergraduate and graduate  
30 degrees and certificates, of at least one year in expected length,  
31 awarded per one hundred full-time equivalent undergraduate students  
32 at the state level;

33 (o) Market penetration: Annual ratio of undergraduate and  
34 graduate degrees and certificates, of at least one year in program  
35 length, awarded relative to the state's population age eighteen to  
36 twenty-four years old with a high school diploma;

37 (p) Student debt load: Median three-year distribution of debt  
38 load, excluding private loans or debts incurred before coming to the  
39 institution;

1 (q) Data related to enrollment, completion rates, participation  
2 rates, and debt load shall be disaggregated for students in the  
3 following income brackets to the maximum extent possible:

4 (i) Up to seventy percent of the median family income;

5 (ii) Between seventy-one percent and one hundred twenty-five  
6 percent of the median family income; and

7 (iii) Above one hundred twenty-five percent of the median family  
8 income; and

9 (r) Yearly percentage increases in the average cost of  
10 undergraduate instruction.

11 (3) Four-year institutions of higher education must count all  
12 students when collecting data, not only first-time, full-time first-  
13 year students.

14 (4) In conjunction with the office of financial management, all  
15 four-year institutions of higher education must display the data  
16 described in subsection (2) of this section in a uniform dashboard  
17 format on the office of financial management's web site no later than  
18 December 1, 2011, and updated thereafter annually by December 1st. To  
19 the maximum extent possible, the information must be viewable by race  
20 and ethnicity, gender, state and county of origin, age, and  
21 socioeconomic status. The information may be tailored to meet the  
22 needs of various target audiences such as students, parents,  
23 researchers, and the general public.

24 (5) The council shall use performance data from the education  
25 data center for the purposes of strategic planning, to report on  
26 progress toward achieving statewide goals, and to develop priorities  
27 proposed in the ten-year plan for higher education.

28 (6)(a) The state universities, regional universities, and the  
29 state college shall submit to the education data center the  
30 administrative, academic, and auxiliary unit budgets that display  
31 clearly the revenue and expenditures categories for each unit.

32 (i) The state universities shall submit the budget information to  
33 the education data center within sixty days of the board of regents  
34 adoption of the university's operating budget, beginning with the  
35 fiscal year 2019 operating budget.

36 (ii) The regional universities and the state college shall submit  
37 the budget information to the education data center within sixty days  
38 of the board of trustees adoption of the university's or college's  
39 operating budget, beginning with the fiscal year 2020 operating  
40 budget.

1       (b) The education data center must compile and display the unit  
2 budget information on the data dashboard by December 1st each year.

3       (c) The education data center must report the unit budget  
4 information to the higher education committees of the legislature  
5 each year by December 31st.

6       (d) The state universities, regional universities, and the state  
7 college shall each include on their web sites in a visible, easy to  
8 locate section, a link to the unit budget information on the  
9 education data center's web site that includes a description of the  
10 information available via the link.

11       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 3.**   This act is necessary for the immediate  
12 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of  
13 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
14 effect May 1, 2019.

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