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**HOUSE BILL 2283**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Stokesbary and Van Werven

Prefiled 12/31/19. Read first time 01/13/20. Referred to Committee on College & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to fairness, transparency, and accountability in  
2 the admission processes of state universities; adding new sections to  
3 chapter 28B.10 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that  
6 Washington's state universities provide a valuable benefit to the  
7 state by developing an educated and skilled workforce and a valuable  
8 benefit to students by offering the opportunity of a world-class  
9 education. The legislature further recognizes that these benefits  
10 necessitate that a critical responsibility be delegated to admission  
11 officers at state universities. In light of the recent college  
12 admissions scandal that occurred at other prestigious institutions  
13 around the United States, the legislature finds that the state and  
14 its residents have a vested interest in ensuring that all admissions  
15 to state universities are fair and transparent. Therefore, the  
16 legislature intends to collect additional data regarding admissions  
17 and waivers at state universities and mandate a more rigorous review  
18 process for students admitted through a special admission process.

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

1 The definitions in this section apply throughout sections 3 and 4  
2 of this act unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

3 (1) "Admitted student" means an applicant who was accepted for  
4 admission to a state university.

5 (2) "Priority admission" means an applicant is granted admission  
6 to a state university despite not meeting requirements to be  
7 regularly admissible based on comprehensive review results, but has  
8 an admissions index number of twenty-eight or higher.

9 (3) "Special admission" means an applicant is granted admission  
10 to a state university despite not meeting requirements to be  
11 regularly admissible based on comprehensive review results and has an  
12 admissions index number lower than twenty-eight.

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

15 The state universities shall report to the higher education  
16 committees of the legislature and in accordance with RCW 43.01.036 on  
17 an annual basis, beginning June 30, 2021, information on the  
18 following:

19 (1) The total number of applicants for the fall term and the  
20 number of applicants offered admission, each separated by residency  
21 status and by campus;

22 (2) The number of admitted students who enroll for at least one  
23 credit for the term in which they were admitted, separated by  
24 residency status and by campus;

25 (3) The number of students who are admitted to the state  
26 university through each of the following categories for each campus:  
27 Routine admission, priority admission, and special admission;

28 (4) For students admitted under a priority or special admission  
29 process, data on the reasons why those students were admitted,  
30 including but not limited to the following:

31 (a) Athletic, musical, artistic, or other exceptional talent; or

32 (b) Legacy admission due to the applicant's relationship to a  
33 family member employed at the state university, to a donor of the  
34 state university, or based on some other relationship with an  
35 employee of the state university;

36 (5) The average and median admission index number of those  
37 students admitted under both the priority admission and special  
38 admission process; and

1 (6) Information on the nonresident tuition fee differential  
2 exemption authorized under RCW 28B.15.014, including the following:

3 (a) The total number of nonresidents receiving the exemption;

4 (b) The total number of nonresidents receiving the exemption due  
5 to their employment status as either faculty, classified staff, or an  
6 administratively exempt employee, and disaggregated by employment  
7 status;

8 (c) The total number of nonresidents receiving the exemption due  
9 to their relationship as a dependent or spouse of a faculty member,  
10 classified employee, or an administratively exempt employee, and  
11 disaggregated by employment status; and

12 (d) The average salary for each of the following: The faculty  
13 members, classified employees, and administratively exempt employees  
14 receiving nonresident tuition fee differential exemptions for  
15 themselves or a family member.

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

18 Before a state university offers admission through a special  
19 admission process, the university must ensure the special admission  
20 process includes review and approval of the applicant's admission by  
21 a three-person panel. The three-person panel must include at least  
22 two faculty members, each from a different department or school at  
23 the state university. Each person on the three-person panel has an  
24 equal vote towards the decision to approve an applicant for special  
25 admission.

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