
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2514

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By House College & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Representatives Leavitt, Rude, Slatter, Ortiz-Self, Kilduff, Valdez, and Goodman; by request of Lieutenant Governor)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the Washington common application;
2 adding a new section to chapter 28B.10 RCW; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that while
6 institutions of higher education generally intend to design
7 admissions processes to be as equitable as possible, certain
8 administrative barriers can create inequities with disproportionate
9 negative impacts on underrepresented student populations. One such
10 barrier includes the time and financial resources required for
11 students to apply to multiple institutions each with their own unique
12 application processes. Despite significant commonality among
13 applications, students applying to multiple institutions must answer
14 duplicative or similar questions from one application to the next,
15 alter similar responses to accommodate different word count
16 requirements, navigate separate fee waiver processes, and more. The
17 time, money, and particular expertise required to successfully
18 complete these applications creates an unnecessary administrative
19 barrier that especially impacts students with competing obligations,
20 such as job and familial responsibilities, as well as students who
21 may lack access to college admissions resources. Research has shown

1 that when institutions adopt a common application, they improve
2 access for potential students, resulting in a larger and more diverse
3 applicant pool. Given these facts, the legislature intends to direct
4 institutions of higher education to adopt a common application so
5 that students may apply to all six public four-year institutions of
6 higher education in Washington using the same application.

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

9 (1) The public four-year institutions of higher education shall
10 all enroll in the same preexisting online common application for use
11 in admitting students by the 2022-23 academic year. The preexisting
12 online common application adopted shall meet the following
13 requirements:

14 (a) Includes more than five hundred institutional participants;
15 and

16 (b) Has an established application fee waiver process for low-
17 income students.

18 (2) Nothing in this section precludes a public institution of
19 higher education from adopting a second preexisting online common
20 application that meets the following requirements:

21 (a) Includes more than one hundred institutional participants;
22 and

23 (b) Has an established application fee waiver process for low-
24 income students.

25 (3) The public four-year institutions of higher education are
26 encouraged to collaborate on standardized fee waiver requirements for
27 low-income students to help ensure predictability and equity for
28 students.

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