
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1296

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By House Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Ogden, Wood, Spanel, Miller, Sheldon, Dellwo, May, Fraser, Paris, Ferguson, Betrozoff, Mitchell, Wineberry, R. Johnson, Brekke, Basich and Anderson).

Read first time February 7, 1991.

1 AN ACT Relating to access to higher education for students with
2 disabilities; adding new sections to chapter 28B.80 RCW; creating new
3 sections; and making appropriations.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The higher education coordinating board
6 shall establish an advisory committee on access to higher education for
7 students with disabilities. The advisory committee shall include, but
8 is not limited to, representation from the following: The division of
9 vocational rehabilitation, the department of services for the blind,
10 the office of the superintendent of public instruction, the state board
11 for community college education, the council of presidents, the state
12 board for vocational education or its successor, the division of
13 developmental disabilities, disabled student coordinators of community
14 colleges and four-year institutions of higher education, and students
15 with disabilities.

1 As needed and appropriate for specific time-limited activities, the
2 board may expand the membership of the advisory committee to include
3 participation and representation of other organizations or interested
4 individuals. Such organizations may include, but are not limited to:
5 The Washington state association of the deaf, the veterans
6 administration, the Washington library for the blind and physically
7 handicapped, the department of labor and industries, the department of
8 corrections, the human rights commission, the Easter Seal Society, the
9 governor's committee on disability issues and employment, the
10 Washington financial aid officers' association, institutions of higher
11 education, the developmental disabilities planning council, and the
12 Washington state library.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** By December 15, 1994, with the
14 assistance of the advisory committee, the higher education coordinating
15 board shall:

16 (1) Inventory resources available to address the accommodation
17 needs of students with disabilities, and identify the purposes and
18 limitations of those resources and areas where resources are needed but
19 lacking;

20 (2) Assist in the development of interagency agreements to ensure
21 consistent, effective, and equitable utilization of those resources;

22 (3) Foster clearer and more consistent understanding of the roles
23 and responsibilities of the various entities sharing responsibility for
24 promoting equality of opportunity for persons with disabilities in
25 higher education, and promote effective coordination of efforts to
26 address the accommodation needs of students with disabilities;

27 (4) Coordinate the development of an information system that
28 supports the efforts of students, institutions, and agencies to locate
29 and make effective use of available resources. The system may include

1 a data base, a tracking system, technical assistance, loan agreements,
2 and other mechanisms.

3 (5) Review application and admission procedures used within
4 institutions of higher education, to assure that these procedures are
5 open and accessible to people of disability and that they treat people
6 of disability fairly and equitably;

7 (6) Review policies, processes, and practices related to
8 alternative admissions, to assure that people of disability receive
9 consideration and support in the efforts of institutions to promote
10 diversity within their student bodies;

11 (7) Coordinate the development of standardized definitions and a
12 state-wide information gathering and reporting mechanism that will
13 provide policymakers with information on the numbers, characteristics,
14 accommodation needs, anticipated costs of accommodations, and status of
15 students with disabilities seeking admission or accommodation within
16 institutions of higher education, and the staffing levels, inventory of
17 equipment, budgets, policies, and outcomes of those institutions;

18 (8) Coordinate the development of consistent guidelines and
19 standards for the implementation of core services for students with
20 disabilities to ensure uniformity in the range and level of
21 accommodation provided;

22 (9) Contingent upon funding, administer and coordinate the targeted
23 projects established in section 5 of this act designed to complement
24 and enhance the efforts of institutions and other existing resources to
25 accommodate students with disabilities in the state's higher education
26 system;

27 (10) Coordinate, with the state board for community college
28 education, professional development training as specified in section 4
29 of this act; and

1 (11) Coordinate the development of standards and practices
2 regarding the documentation of disabilities, with particular emphasis
3 on hidden disabilities.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** With the assistance of the advisory
5 committee, the board shall undertake the following responsibilities:

6 (1) Oversee the refinement of interagency agreements in order to
7 accomplish the following: Ensure consistent, effective, and equitable
8 utilization of those resources, foster clearer and more consistent
9 understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the various
10 entities, and promote effective coordination of efforts to address the
11 accommodation needs of students with disabilities;

12 (2) Monitor, analyze, and report on the product of the state-wide
13 information gathering and reporting mechanism on the numbers,
14 characteristics, accommodation needs, anticipated costs of
15 accommodations, and status of students with disabilities seeking
16 admission or accommodation within institutions of higher education, and
17 the staffing levels, inventory of equipment, budgets, policies, and
18 outcomes of those institutions;

19 (3) Maintain and manage a data base and other mechanisms that will
20 support the efforts of students, institutions, and agencies to locate
21 and make effective use of available resources. The mechanisms may
22 include, but are not limited to, tracking systems, technical
23 assistance, and loan agreements;

24 (4) Identify emerging issues related to opportunities for people
25 with disabilities to benefit from postsecondary education within this
26 state, and develop policies, plans, and recommendations for addressing
27 those issues;

28 (5) Provide periodic reports of its activities, recommendations,
29 and findings to the governor and the legislature. The report shall

1 include a review of institutional efforts to implement core services;
2 and

3 (6) Review existing institutional and agency procedures for
4 resolving disputed reasonable accommodation requests, collect data on
5 the number of students with disputes, and recommend refinements to
6 expedite dispute resolution procedures.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The higher education coordinating board
8 and the state board for community college education shall coordinate
9 professional development training for disabled student service
10 coordinators. The training shall include, but is not limited to:
11 Applicable state and federal laws, the broad range of disabling
12 conditions and their potential significance related to accommodation in
13 a higher education setting, methods of providing accommodation, and
14 interfacing with service agencies and available resources. The higher
15 education coordinating board and the state board for community college
16 education shall also coordinate training for faculty, staff, and
17 administrators of institutions of higher education. The training shall
18 include, but is not limited to: The rights of students with
19 disabilities, people of disability as a valuable part of human
20 diversity, and the role of the disabled student service coordinator.
21 These programs may be coordinated through the affirmative action office
22 at each institution.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** In consultation with the advisory
24 committee created in section 1 of this act, and with the assistance of
25 institutions of higher education, the higher education coordinating
26 board shall administer a program that funds targeted projects designed
27 to assist students with disabilities to access and succeed in higher
28 education. The targeted projects may include, but are not limited to:

1 (1) A small-scale pilot program to create and strengthen on-campus
2 taping services, and to convert texts to Braille, audio tape, and
3 electronic formats. This pilot program shall be designed to augment
4 and support existing institution-based efforts by providing them with
5 a cost-effective alternative for conversion of large documents, when
6 circumstances allow sufficient lead time;

7 (2) A fund for extraordinary, unanticipated accommodation expenses,
8 such as sign language interpreters or adaptive aides and equipment; and

9 (3) Seed grants to encourage new programs or particular programs
10 that would foster cooperation, increase the effectiveness of existing
11 resources, and address unmet needs on a regional or state-wide basis.

12 The advisory committee created in section 1 of this act shall
13 assist the board with the design, implementation, and monitoring of the
14 targeted projects. In addition, the advisory committee shall assist in
15 the development and administration of program guidelines. The program
16 shall not be used to supplant other funds that would have or could have
17 been used to cover the costs of the needed accommodations.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The sum of five hundred thousand
19 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from
20 the general fund to the higher education coordinating board for the
21 biennium ending June 30, 1993, to carry out the purposes of sections 2
22 and 3 of this act.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** If specific funding for the purposes of
24 sections 2 and 3 of this act is not provided in this act or in the
25 omnibus appropriations act by June 30, 1991, sections 2 and 3 of this
26 act shall be null and void.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The sum of one hundred thousand dollars,
2 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the
3 general fund to the higher education coordinating board for the
4 biennium ending June 30, 1993, to carry out the purposes of section 4
5 of this act.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** If specific funding for the purposes of
7 section 4 of this act is not provided in this act or in the omnibus
8 appropriations act by June 30, 1991, section 4 of this act shall be
9 null and void.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** The sum of one million dollars, or as
11 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the general fund
12 to the higher education coordinating board for the biennium ending June
13 30, 1993, to carry out the purposes of section 5 of this act.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** If specific funding for the purposes of
15 section 5 of this act is not provided in this act or in the omnibus
16 appropriations act by June 30, 1991, section 5 of this act shall be
17 null and void.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act are
19 each added to chapter 28B.80 RCW.