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SENATE BILL 5781

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State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senators Jesernig, Bauer, Moyer, Pelz, Bluechel, Spanel, Hargrove, Drew, von Reichbauer, Snyder, Sheldon, Loveland, McDonald, Erwin, M. Rasmussen, Barr, Prentice, Sutherland, McAuliffe, West, Oke, Amondson, Haugen, Franklin, Sellar, Hochstatter, Fraser, Deccio, A. Smith and Winsley

Read first time 02/12/93. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to higher education; adding new sections to chapter  
2 28B.10 RCW; creating a new section; repealing RCW 28B.15.515; providing  
3 an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there is  
6 increasing need for postsecondary educational opportunities for  
7 citizens of the state of Washington. The legislature also finds that  
8 in the past twelve years postsecondary educational opportunities have  
9 been severely restricted by state budget policy. The proportion of the  
10 state budget dedicated to postsecondary educational programs has  
11 continued to decrease and, subsequently, the opportunity for this  
12 state's citizens to participate in such programs has also declined. At  
13 the same time, major technological, economic, and demographic changes  
14 have exacerbated the need for improved training and education to  
15 maintain a high-quality, competitive work force, and a well-educated  
16 populace to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. The  
17 legislature finds that this state has not fulfilled its responsibility  
18 to provide sufficient opportunity, commensurate with the dramatic  
19 growth in this state's population, for its citizens to engage in the

1 postsecondary educational programs that are necessary for their  
2 personal and professional improvement and this state's economic  
3 vitality.

4 Therefore, the legislature declares that the policy of the state of  
5 Washington shall be to improve the access to, and quality of, this  
6 state's postsecondary educational system. The budgetary policy of the  
7 state of Washington shall be to provide a level of protection and  
8 commitment to the state's postsecondary educational system commensurate  
9 with the responsibility of this state to the educational and  
10 professional improvement of its citizens and work force.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** It is the policy of the state of Washington  
12 that funding for the state institutions of higher education, provided  
13 in the omnibus appropriations act, shall ensure adequate resources to  
14 maintain a state-funded full-time equivalent participation rate at a  
15 minimum of the participation rate funded in the last fiscal year of the  
16 previous biennium beginning with the 1993 fiscal year. The  
17 participation rate shall be based on the state's estimated population  
18 between the ages of seventeen and forty-four.

19 The funding level per full-time equivalent enrollment established  
20 for this minimum number of full-time equivalent students shall, each  
21 biennium, be equal to the rate assumed in the omnibus appropriations  
22 act for the last fiscal year of the previous biennium plus an inflation  
23 factor for, at a minimum, the instruction, instructional support, and  
24 library support budget categories that is equivalent to the inflation  
25 factor used to calculate basic education in the common school system  
26 budget request submitted by the governor.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** In addition to the minimum participation  
28 rate established in section 2 of this act, it is the policy of the  
29 state of Washington to achieve the goal of reaching the ninetieth  
30 percentile in national participation rates by the year 2010. This  
31 shall be accomplished by increasing enrollments, in addition to any  
32 increases required by section 2 of this act, in regular increments each  
33 biennium in order to remain on target to achieve this goal by the end  
34 of the 2009-11 biennium. Pursuant to section 4 of this act, the higher  
35 education coordinating board shall regularly calculate the additional  
36 enrollments necessary each biennium to achieve the purposes of this  
37 section.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    Formal estimates of the state participation  
2 rates necessary to fulfill the requirements of sections 2 and 3 of this  
3 act will be determined by the higher education coordinating board, in  
4 conjunction with the office of financial management, based upon state  
5 population statistics provided by the office of financial management.  
6 Estimates of additional or increased full-time equivalent enrollments  
7 required by sections 2 and 3 of this act for each succeeding budget  
8 period shall be reported by the higher education coordinating board to  
9 the office of financial management and the legislature by April 1st of  
10 each even-numbered year.    As a part of this report, the higher  
11 education coordinating board shall provide separate estimates of the  
12 additional enrollments necessary each biennium to remain on target to  
13 achieve the enrollment goal established in section 3 of this act.

14        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    It is the policy of the state of Washington  
15 that the state institutions of higher education have full authority to  
16 use innovative approaches to increase the enrollment level of their  
17 institutions.    The provisions of sections 2 and 3 of this act are used  
18 to calculate a minimum state-funded enrollment level, however each  
19 institution has the authority and flexibility to increase the actual  
20 level of enrollment from this minimum that it will maintain during any  
21 fiscal year.    The level of state-funded enrollment that is adopted  
22 under sections 2 and 3 of this act is not an enrollment limit or  
23 restriction upon an institution of higher education.    The state  
24 institutions of higher education are encouraged to deploy or redeploy  
25 their existing resources to increase access to their institutions if it  
26 does not result in a reduction in direct instructional services to  
27 students.

28        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**    It is the policy of the state of Washington  
29 that financial need not be a barrier to participation in the state  
30 higher education system.    Funding for student financial aid in each  
31 omnibus appropriations act shall, at a minimum, be equal to the amount  
32 provided in the previous biennium adjusted for increases in the state-  
33 funded full-time equivalent enrollment level pursuant to sections 2 and  
34 3 of this act and increases in the cost of attendance as calculated by  
35 the higher education coordinating board.    The higher education  
36 coordinating board shall provide these calculations to the office of

1 financial management and the legislature by April 1st of each even-  
2 numbered year.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** RCW 28B.15.515 and 1991 c 353 s 1 are each  
4 repealed.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 2 through 6 of this act are each  
6 added to chapter 28B.10 RCW.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
8 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
9 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take  
10 effect July 1, 1993.

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