
HOUSE BILL 2051

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Anderson and Jarrett

Read first time 02/06/2007. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to higher education accountability; amending RCW
2 28B.76.310 and 28B.76.270; adding a new section to chapter 43.41 RCW;
3 and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the public
6 has the following interests in higher education:

7 (a) Enhancing the supply of professional and technical skills in
8 fields of public importance that would not be adequate without public
9 subsidy;

10 (b) Offering opportunities for citizens to achieve the skills and
11 knowledge necessary for self-sufficiency; and

12 (c) Providing learning opportunities for citizens that encourage
13 academic excellence.

14 (2) The legislature further finds that efficiency and quality
15 service to citizens are important objectives that state policymakers
16 must be able to consider when deciding how best to provide for the
17 public interest. Since 1997, public institutions of higher education
18 have developed and maintained a system of performance measures to
19 monitor progress in improving graduation efficiency, faculty

1 productivity, student achievement of degrees and certifications, and
2 other topics. However, the current performance measurement system is
3 too limited in scope and scale. Additionally, certain data that are
4 necessary for a complete dialogue between state policymakers,
5 institution leaders, and governing and coordinating boards, regarding
6 the challenges facing colleges and universities and the outcomes
7 expected by the public and the state, are not routinely available. The
8 state, institutions, and governing and coordinating boards must jointly
9 discuss and establish clear priorities and ensure progress in meeting
10 those priorities.

11 (3) Therefore, the legislature intends to explore a new
12 relationship between the state, public institutions of higher
13 education, governing and coordinating boards, and other related
14 entities that includes uniform data collection, coordination, and
15 assessment, uniform cost accounting, and the development and
16 publication of a consumer report card.

17 **PART 1**

18 **DATA COLLECTION AND COORDINATION**

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 101.** A new section is added to chapter 43.41
20 RCW to read as follows:

21 HIGHER EDUCATION DATA CENTER. (1) The higher education data center
22 shall be established in the office of financial management and act in
23 collaboration with legislative committee staff. The higher education
24 data center shall conduct analyses of higher education issues, and
25 issues that pertain to student transition into higher education. The
26 higher education data center shall be considered an education research
27 agency under applicable federal and state statutes for purposes of
28 receiving and processing student record data for research purposes.

29 (2) The higher education data center shall:

30 (a) Coordinate with other state education agencies to compile
31 education data and complete higher education focused research projects;

32 (b) Implement a common student identification number used within K-
33 12 and higher education to track outcomes within all of higher
34 education and between K-12 and higher education;

35 (c) Provide research support that focuses on student transitions
36 from K-12 into higher education and within the higher education system;

1 (d) Track higher education enrollment and outcomes including, but
2 not limited to: (i) Application acceptance rates; (ii) enrollment
3 data; (iii) entrance placement examination scores; (iv) enrollment by
4 field of study in both lower and upper-division classes; (v) program-
5 specific acceptance rates for freshman; (vi) program-specific
6 acceptance rates applying to a major after freshman year; (vii)
7 financial aid use; (viii) graduation rates; and (ix) employment rates
8 in general fields of study.

9 (3) The superintendent of public instruction, state board for
10 community and technical colleges, workforce training and education
11 coordinating board, higher education coordinating board, public
12 baccalaureate institutions, and employment security department shall
13 work with the higher education data center to develop data sharing and
14 research agreements, consistent with applicable confidentiality
15 requirements, to facilitate the work of the center. The higher
16 education data center shall make data from collaborative analyses
17 available to the education agencies and institutions that contribute
18 data to the higher education data center to the extent allowed by
19 federal and state security and confidentiality requirements applicable
20 to the data of each contributing agency or institution.

21 **PART 2**
22 **COST ACCOUNTING**

23 **Sec. 201.** RCW 28B.76.310 and 2004 c 275 s 15 are each amended to
24 read as follows:

25 (1) The board, in consultation with the house of representatives
26 and senate committees responsible for higher education, the respective
27 fiscal committees of the house of representatives and senate, the
28 office of financial management, the state board for community and
29 technical colleges, and the state institutions of higher education,
30 shall develop standardized methods and protocols for measuring the
31 direct and indirect undergraduate and graduate educational costs for
32 the state universities, regional universities, and community colleges,
33 including but not limited to (~~the costs of instruction, costs to~~
34 ~~provide degrees in specific fields, and costs for precollege~~
35 ~~remediation))):~~

36 (a) Cost per enrolled undergraduate and graduate student;

1 for the community and technical colleges shall reflect the role and
2 mission of the colleges.

3 (3) The board shall approve biennial performance targets for each
4 four-year institution and for the community and technical college
5 system and shall review actual achievements annually. The state board
6 for community and technical colleges shall set biennial performance
7 targets for each college or district, where appropriate.

8 (4) The board shall submit a report on progress towards the
9 statewide goals, with recommendations for the ensuing biennium, to the
10 fiscal and higher education committees of the legislature along with
11 the board's biennial budget recommendations.

12 (5) The board, in collaboration with the four-year institutions and
13 the state board for community and technical colleges, shall
14 periodically review and update the accountability monitoring and
15 reporting system.

16 (6) The board shall develop measurable indicators and benchmarks
17 for its own performance regarding cost, quantity, (~~quality,~~) and
18 timeliness and including the performance of committees and advisory
19 groups convened under this chapter to accomplish such tasks as
20 improving transfer and articulation, improving articulation with the K-
21 12 education system, measuring educational costs, or developing data
22 protocols. The board shall submit its accountability plan to the
23 legislature concurrently with the biennial report on institution
24 progress.

25 (7)(a) The board shall develop a consumer report card that provides
26 data for educational consumers to assess educational quality. The data
27 shall focus on the nature of the learning environment at public
28 institutions of higher education including, but not limited to:

29 (i) All data collected under section 101(2)(d) of this act;

30 (ii) Class size;

31 (iii) Instructor qualifications;

32 (iv) Teaching and learning assessment practices;

33 (v) Faculty availability and employment status; and

34 (vi) Other institutional resources such as research, athletics, and
35 student services available.

36 (b) Freshman and seniors attending public baccalaureate
37 degree-granting institutions at least half time shall be assessed on

1 the scores on the collegiate learning assessment or college level
2 examination program tests. Freshman and senior scores shall be
3 included in the report card.

4 (c) The consumer report card shall be submitted to the higher
5 education and fiscal committees of the house of representatives and
6 senate, and made available for the public by December 15, 2008, and
7 every two years thereafter.

8 **PART 4**

9 **MISCELLANEOUS**

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 401.** Part headings and captions used in this
11 act are not any part of the law.

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