
ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 3306

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Wallace and Dunn)

READ FIRST TIME 02/12/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to electronic learning at institutions of higher
2 education; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) Technology has changed the breadth and
5 depth of educational opportunities available by providing access to
6 higher education through online, web-based learning and other digital
7 technologies. These technological advances have expanded access to
8 help meet the needs of all students, including those with historically
9 low levels of participation in higher education. Technology has
10 enabled nontraditional students, many of whom work full time and have
11 family responsibilities, to access postsecondary education on a
12 schedule that accommodates their lifestyle. The legislature finds that
13 distance learning has expanded beyond correspondence courses and other
14 forms of off-site education to include online, web-based learning,
15 videoconferencing, podcasting, and any other digital medium that
16 connects students to learning opportunities.

17 (2) Therefore, it is the legislature's intent to establish and
18 maintain a comprehensive set of best practices and standards of

1 accountability and quality for all eLearning programs to guide students
2 and their families when making course and program degree selections.

3 (3) Consistent with the strategic master plan for higher education
4 adopted by the higher education coordinating board, the state board for
5 community and technical colleges shall convene a work group that
6 includes representatives from the workforce training and education
7 coordinating board, the prosperity partnership, the technology
8 alliance, the higher education coordinating board, a private career or
9 vocational school, a four-year public institution of higher education,
10 the council of faculty representatives, the united faculty of
11 Washington state, community and technical college faculty, as well as
12 a community or technical college student to take the following actions
13 related to eLearning:

14 (a) Review, and to the extent necessary, establish standards and
15 best practices regarding electronic learning and related support
16 services including online help desk support, advising, mentoring,
17 counseling, and tutoring;

18 (b) Recommend methods to increase student access to eLearning
19 programs of study and identify barriers to program of study
20 participation and completion;

21 (c) Determine methods to increase the institutional supply and
22 quality of open course materials, with a focus on the OpenCourseWare
23 initiative at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology;

24 (d) Recommend methods to increase the availability and use of
25 digital open textbooks;

26 (e) Review and report demographic information on eLearning programs
27 of study enrollments, retention, and completions; and

28 (f) Create a subgroup of the work group, led by the workforce
29 training and education coordinating board and including additional
30 industry representation, to examine worksite eLearning programs and
31 options for improvement and expansion of such programs. The subgroup's
32 findings and recommendations shall be included in the report to the
33 legislature as outlined in subsection (4) of this section.

34 (4) The work group shall submit a preliminary report of its
35 findings and recommendations to the appropriate committees of the
36 legislature by December 1, 2008, and a final report by December 1,
37 2009.

1 (5) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
2 section.

3 (a) "eLearning" means a program of study in which digital
4 technologies are used to support learning in flexible, anytime,
5 anywhere learning spaces. The "e" in "eLearning" stands variously for
6 enhanced, electronic, or extended.

7 (b) "Program of study" means a credit or noncredit class, degree,
8 or certificate program.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
10 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
11 June 30, 2008, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
12 void.

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