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HOUSE BILL 1673

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State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Anderson, Schmick, and Angel

Read first time 01/27/09. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to a consumer report card with information about  
2 institutions of higher education; and adding a new section to chapter  
3 28B.10 RCW.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7            (1) The state and regional universities and The Evergreen State  
8 College, together with the higher education coordinating board and the  
9 education data center, shall develop a consumer report card designed to  
10 provide prospective students and their families with easily accessible,  
11 basic, and comparable information about the individual institutions of  
12 higher education. The consumer report card shall include the following  
13 information displayed in a standard, user-friendly format:

14            (a) Student body data, including total number of students, gender,  
15 race, ethnicity, average age, geographic origin, and enrollment status;

16            (b) Retention and graduation rates;

17            (c) Cost of attendance for resident and nonresident and  
18 undergraduate and graduate students;

1 (d) Need-based financial aid awarded, in terms of scholarships,  
2 grants, and loans;

3 (e) Freshman and transfer student admission statistics, including  
4 information regarding test scores, grade point average, number of  
5 applicants, number accepted, and number enrolled;

6 (f) Number of degrees conferred by subject, program, or department;

7 (g) Faculty to student ratio;

8 (h) Faculty data, including total number of full-time and part-time  
9 faculty, degrees held, gender, race, and ethnicity;

10 (i) From the Carnegie classifications of institutions of higher  
11 education, the basic type, size and setting, enrollment profile,  
12 undergraduate profile, undergraduate instructional program, and  
13 graduate instructional program;

14 (j) On-campus housing data; and

15 (k) Campus safety.

16 (2) Development of the consumer report card shall be completed and  
17 a prototype submitted by the higher education coordinating board to the  
18 higher education committees of the house of representatives and the  
19 senate by December 15, 2009. By June 30, 2010, each institution of  
20 higher education shall make its consumer report card available to the  
21 public and shall update the information annually thereafter.

22 (3) In lieu of participating in the development and display of the  
23 consumer report card, an institution of higher education may instead  
24 post by December 15, 2009, and commit to annually update a college  
25 portrait as part of the voluntary system of accountability sponsored by  
26 the American association of state colleges and universities and the  
27 national association of state universities and land grant colleges.  
28 The higher education coordinating board and the education data center  
29 shall be excused from participating in the development of the consumer  
30 report card only if all of the state and regional universities and The  
31 Evergreen State College post college portraits by December 15, 2009,  
32 and commit to their annual update. By December 15, 2009, the higher  
33 education coordinating board shall report to the higher education  
34 committees of the house of representatives and the senate as to whether  
35 and which institutions of higher education chose to post a college  
36 portrait and commit to its annual update.

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