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HOUSE BILL 2352

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Representatives Sawyer, Warnick, Seaquist, Walsh, Johnson, Manweller, Sells, Riccelli, Reykdal, Ryu, Morrell, Zeiger, Tarleton, and Freeman

Read first time 01/16/14. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to an online alternative credit degree program;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 28B.35 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.35 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) An online alternative credit degree program that awards degrees  
7 based on an alternative credit model is established. This program is  
8 intended to position the state to meet baccalaureate degree production  
9 goals and to serve nontraditional students who may already hold some  
10 postsecondary academic credits or life experience that can count  
11 towards a degree.

12 (2) Students targeted for enrollment in this program include:

13 (a) Students who are early learning providers, to help expand  
14 professional degree holders in the field;

15 (b) Veterans returning to civilian life with education, knowledge,  
16 and skills acquired during military service;

17 (c) Students transferring from another college or university;

18 (d) High school students who are college bound;

1 (e) Students who come to a university or college with academic  
2 credits earned through dual credit programs such as running start,  
3 international baccalaureate, AP, college in the high school, and other  
4 programs;

5 (f) Individuals who have completed education and training programs  
6 provided by an employer;

7 (g) Individuals who have acquired knowledge and work experience on  
8 the job or through an internship; and

9 (h) Individuals who have acquired some postsecondary academic  
10 credit, but whose commitments to work or family prohibit degree  
11 completion in a traditional baccalaureate setting.

12 (3) Central Washington University shall host the online alternative  
13 credit degree program. In order to develop the program the university  
14 shall:

15 (a) Communicate with community and business leaders to identify and  
16 deliver needed programs;

17 (b) Develop and launch curricula and programs in response to the  
18 needs of business and students;

19 (c) Evaluate and offer credit for student learning already acquired  
20 outside of academic settings;

21 (d) Develop a delivery model that provides flexibility for working  
22 students in place of a traditional instructional model and pace;

23 (e) Coordinate with other K-20 education providers; and

24 (f) Identify strategies to enhance baccalaureate aspirations in  
25 underserved communities.

26 (4) Central Washington University shall report annually by December  
27 1st to the higher education committees of the legislature on progress  
28 in implementing the program and recommendations for improvement or  
29 expansion.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** If specific funding for the purposes of this  
31 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by  
32 June 30, 2014, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and  
33 void.

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