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HOUSE BILL 2653

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State of Washington                      63rd Legislature                      2014 Regular Session

By Representatives Zeiger, Pollet, Haler, Morrell, and Freeman

Read first time 01/23/14. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to higher education degree production incentives;  
2 and adding a new section to chapter 28B.77 RCW.

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.77 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6            (1) The degree production incentive account is created in the state  
7 treasury. Moneys in the account shall be spent only after  
8 appropriation. All receipts from appropriations directed to the  
9 account must be deposited into the account. Expenditures from the  
10 account may be used only for degree production incentive purposes as  
11 identified in subsection (2) of this section and distributed based on  
12 a formula in subsection (3) of this section.

13            (2) Expenditures from the degree production incentive account shall  
14 be for the purpose of providing incentives to the state universities,  
15 the regional universities, and The Evergreen State College to meet  
16 degree production goals to increase:

17            (a) Undergraduate degrees awarded;

18            (b) Undergraduate degrees awarded in science, technology,  
19 engineering, and math (STEM), and high employer demand fields;

1 (c) Degrees awarded to low-income students; and

2 (d) The proportion of in-state students accepted compared to out-  
3 of-state students.

4 (3)(a) Degree production incentive moneys must be disbursed to each  
5 of the state universities, the regional universities, and The Evergreen  
6 State College according to the number of points earned. The method for  
7 earning points shall be based on the formula in this subsection (3).

8 (i) One point will be earned for each undergraduate degree awarded;

9 (ii) One point will be earned for each undergraduate degree awarded  
10 in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), and high employer  
11 demand fields; and

12 (iii) One point will be earned for each degree awarded to a low-  
13 income student based on the student's eligibility for a federal Pell  
14 grant.

15 (b) The total number of institutional points shall equal the sum of  
16 points earned in (a)(i) through (iii) of this subsection multiplied by  
17 the acceptance rate of in-state students.

18 (4) The data used to determine points earned for degree production  
19 incentive purposes shall be the same as used for the higher education  
20 data dashboard collected under RCW 28B.77.090 by the education data  
21 center in the office of financial management.

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