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SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2694

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Hansen, Magendanz, Zeiger, Walsh, Hargrove, Ormsby, Haler, Tharinger, and Freeman)

READ FIRST TIME 02/11/14.

1 AN ACT Relating to an informational program to increase  
2 applications from high-achieving low-income high school students to  
3 selective institutions of higher education; adding a new section to  
4 chapter 28B.77 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that each year a  
7 large number of high-achieving students from low-income families do not  
8 apply to four-year colleges or universities, even though they would  
9 have a good chance of acceptance and success. At the same time, high-  
10 achieving students from high-income families are very likely to apply  
11 to four-year colleges and universities.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.77 RCW  
13 to read as follows:

14 (1) The council shall design and implement a program that provides  
15 information to high-achieving, low-income high school students through  
16 the mail and, if the council determines appropriate, electronically,  
17 customized for each student, with the purpose of increasing the number

1 of applications from this group of students to four-year institutions  
2 of higher education and independent, nonprofit baccalaureate degree-  
3 granting institutions in the state.

4 (2) For the purposes of designing, developing, and implementing the  
5 program, the council shall:

6 (a) Partner with a national entity that offers aptitude tests;

7 (b) Consult with four-year institutions of higher education and  
8 independent, nonprofit baccalaureate degree-granting institutions with  
9 physical locations in the state; and

10 (c) Seek opportunities for shared costs and resources with the  
11 entities in (a) and (b) of this subsection and develop agreements with  
12 these entities.

13 (3) The council shall identify high-achieving students from low-  
14 income families using methods the council determines to be appropriate,  
15 including but not limited to national aptitude test scores, scores on  
16 AP tests, and running start and other dual credit programs.

17 (4) The council shall identify low-income students using methods  
18 the council deems appropriate including eligibility for free or  
19 reduced-price lunches or self-reported information or participation in  
20 federal and state programs for low-income students.

21 (5) The main component of the program is to mail a customized  
22 information packet to high-achieving, low-income students. The packet  
23 must include at a minimum:

24 (a) Materials that help students to choose colleges;

25 (b) An application guidance booklet;

26 (c) Application fee waivers, if available, for four-year  
27 institutions of higher education and independent nonprofit  
28 baccalaureate degree-granting institutions in the state that enable  
29 students receiving a packet to apply without paying application fees;

30 (d) Information on college affordability and financial aid that  
31 includes information on the net cost of attendance for each four-year  
32 institution of higher education and each nonprofit baccalaureate  
33 degree-granting institution, and information on merit and need-based  
34 aid from federal, state, and institutional sources; and

35 (e) A personally addressed cover letter signed by the governor and  
36 the president of each four-year institution of higher education and  
37 nonprofit baccalaureate degree-granting institution in the state.

1           (6) The council shall implement the program no later than fall  
2 2015, giving consideration to spring mailings in order to capture early  
3 action decisions offered by institutions of higher education and  
4 nonprofit baccalaureate degree-granting institutions.

5           NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If specific funding for the purposes of this  
6 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by  
7 June 30, 2014, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and  
8 void.

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