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HOUSE BILL 2691

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Pollet, Manweller, Sells, Zeiger, Tarleton, Haler,  
and Kilduff

Read first time 01/18/16. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to Central Washington University's fifth year  
2 promise; adding a new section to chapter 28B.35 RCW; and creating a  
3 new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that students'  
6 ability to graduate is often seriously impacted by the lack of access  
7 to advising, degree completion tools, the lack of capacity or  
8 availability of required courses needed for degree completion, and  
9 the lack of information about specific degree or program requirements  
10 and when those are offered. In addition, student indebtedness may be  
11 increased and students may lose limited financial aid when they are  
12 not able to graduate in four years. The legislature finds that there  
13 are software and advising programs available that can reduce the  
14 likelihood of these impacts.

15 (2) The legislature commends Central Washington University's  
16 willingness to guarantee that any student in a four-year degree  
17 program who commits to following a pathway outlined by advisors and  
18 degree-planner software, but does not graduate in four years, will be  
19 able to enroll in his or her remaining required courses for free in  
20 the fifth year. The legislature supports this promise and intends for

1 it to serve as an innovative pilot for other institutions of higher  
2 education.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.35  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) Central Washington University is authorized to offer a  
6 program that promises that a student enrolled in a four-year  
7 baccalaureate degree program will graduate within four years or  
8 Central Washington University will allow the student to enroll in his  
9 or her remaining required courses for free in the fifth year, as long  
10 as the student:

11 (a) Commits to following a degree pathway developed in  
12 conjunction with his or her advisor and degree-planner software;

13 (b) Attempts to enroll in courses required for his or her degree  
14 program pursuant to the plan developed in (a) of this subsection when  
15 those courses are offered; and

16 (c) Maintains satisfactory academic progress.

17 (2) Central Washington University shall use local funds to  
18 support its commitment to provide free enrollment in remaining  
19 courses for a student meeting the description in subsection (1) of  
20 this section.

21 (3) Subject to an appropriation provided for this subsection,  
22 Central Washington University shall purchase a degree-planner  
23 software package that provides students and staff with an online  
24 interface to track degree requirements, student progress, and  
25 forecast personnel, lab, and classroom space needs.

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