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ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5234

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State of Washington                      65th Legislature                      2017 Regular Session

By Senators Mullet, Palumbo, Rivers, Lias, Wilson, and Kuderer

Read first time 01/18/17. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to a systemwide credit policy regarding AP exams;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 28B.77 RCW; and creating a new  
3 section.

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

5            NEW SECTION.        **Sec. 1.**        The legislature finds that advanced  
6 placement coursework prepares students for postsecondary success and  
7 provides opportunities for them to earn college credit or secure  
8 placement in advanced courses. The legislature further finds that  
9 eighty-four thousand eight hundred sixty-six students took an AP exam  
10 in Washington state in 2015. The legislature further finds that six  
11 thousand six hundred sixty-seven of those students were  
12 underrepresented minority students and nine thousand four hundred  
13 seventy-one were low-income students. The legislature further finds  
14 that of the students that took an AP exam in Washington state in  
15 2015, fifty-one thousand seven hundred twenty-five scored a 3, 4, or  
16 5.

17            Therefore, the legislature intends to establish a policy for  
18 granting as many undergraduate course credits as possible to students  
19 who have earned a minimum score of 3 on their AP exams and clearly  
20 communicate credit awarding policies and course equivalencies to  
21 students. The goal of the policy is to award course credit in all

1 appropriate instances and maximize the number of college students  
2 given college credit for AP exam scores of 3 or higher.

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

5 (1) The institutions of higher education must establish a  
6 coordinated, evidence-based policy for granting as many undergraduate  
7 college credits to students who have earned minimum scores of 3 on AP  
8 exams as possible and appropriate.

9 (2) Credit policy regarding all AP exams must be posted on campus  
10 web sites effective for the 2017 fall academic term. The institutions  
11 of higher education must conduct biennial reviews of their AP credit  
12 policy and report noncompliance to appropriate committees of the  
13 legislature by November 1st each year beginning November 1, 2019.

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