
SENATE BILL 6140

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senators Randall, Dhingra, Hasegawa, Kuderer, Lovelett, Nguyen, Stanford, Frockt, and Wilson, C.; by request of Lieutenant Governor

Prefiled 01/07/20. Read first time 01/13/20. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to prohibiting the practice of transcript
2 withholding and limiting the practice of registration holds at
3 institutions of higher education as debt collection practices; and
4 amending RCW 28B.10.293.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.10.293 and 1977 ex.s. c 18 s 1 are each amended
7 to read as follows:

8 ~~((Each state public or private))~~ (1) Institutions of higher
9 education may, in the control and collection of any debt or claim due
10 owing to it, impose reasonable financing and late charges, as well as
11 reasonable costs and expenses incurred in the collection of such
12 debts, if provided for in the note or agreement signed by the debtor.

13 (2) Institutions of higher education may not do any of the
14 following for the purposes of debt collection:

15 (a) Refuse to provide an official transcript for a current or
16 former student on the grounds that the student owes a debt;

17 (b) Condition the provision of an official transcript on the
18 payment of the debt, other than a fee charged to provide the official
19 transcript;

1 (c) Charge a higher fee for obtaining the official transcript, or
2 provide less than favorable treatment of an official transcript
3 request because a student owes a debt; or

4 (d) Use transcript issuance as a tool for debt collection.

5 (3) Institutions of higher education may not withhold
6 registration privileges as a debt collection tool, excluding the case
7 of any debts related to nonpayment of tuition fees as defined in RCW
8 28B.15.020, services and activities fees as defined in RCW
9 28B.15.041, or technology fees as defined in RCW 28B.15.051.

10 (4) For the purposes of this section:

11 (a) "Debt" means any money, obligation, claim, or sum, due or
12 owing, or alleged to be due or owing, from a student, but does not
13 include the fee, if any, charged to all students for the actual costs
14 of providing the transcripts or the cost of tuition.

15 (b) "Institutions of higher education" means the same as in RCW
16 28B.92.030.

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