

SENATE BILL REPORT

SHB 1734

As Passed Senate, April 17, 2019

Title: An act relating to accreditation standards for college in the high school programs.

Brief Description: Requiring accreditation standards for college in the high school programs.

Sponsors: House Committee on College & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Representatives Leavitt, Boehnke, Van Werven, Slatter, Jinkins and Santos).

Brief History: Passed House: 3/11/19, 98-0.

Committee Activity: Higher Education & Workforce Development: 3/19/19, 3/26/19 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed Senate: 4/17/19, 47-0.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires any college or university currently offering concurrent enrollment programs to be nationally accredited by academic year 2027-28.
- Prohibits a higher education institution from offering concurrent enrollment programs if the institution has not attained or is not pursuing national accreditation.
- Requires colleges and universities offering concurrent enrollment programs to undergo state authorization if the program is not yet accredited beginning in academic year 2019-20.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Palumbo, Chair; Randall, Vice Chair; Holy, Ranking Member; Brown, Liias and Wellman.

Staff: Alicia Kinne-Clawson (786-7407)

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Background: Concurrent Enrollment Programs. College in the High School (CIHS) courses, also commonly known interchangeably as dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment, or dual credit courses, provide options to high school students pursuing rigorous college preparatory curriculum as well as options to students who are pursuing a profession and trade through technical and trade related college courses in the high school. These technical and trade related CIHS programs are typically known as Career and Technical Education (CTE) or Tech Prep. Additionally, like other dual credit options, such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Cambridge International, and Running Start, successful completion of CIHS and CTE courses awards college-level credits to high school students while simultaneously completing requirements at the secondary-level.

CIHS courses are typically tuition free to enrolled students; however, fees are often assessed to obtain the credit and charges for textbooks and other materials may apply.

State Requirements for Concurrent Enrollment Program Accreditation. In Washington State, the Washington Administrative Code addresses CIHS standards. Current rule encourages National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) accreditation and mandates, at a minimum, that in lieu of accreditation, participating higher education institutions must provide evidence they meet the most recent NACEP student, curriculum and assessment, faculty, and evaluation standards.

Currently accredited programs include the University of Washington—UW in the High School, Eastern Washington University—EWU in the High School, and Everett Community College—College in the High School. Several other colleges are currently pursuing NACEP accreditation.

Summary of Bill: Beginning in the 2027-28 academic year, any college or university offering concurrent enrollment program courses at a public high school or CIHS programs must receive accreditation by a national accrediting body. If a college or university has not received accreditation or does not yet have a pending application for accreditation, the college or university may not offer a concurrent enrollment or a CIHS program at a public high school. New college and university concurrent enrollment programs implemented after the 2019-20 academic year have seven years from the first term courses are offered to submit an application for accreditation.

Beginning in the 2019-20 academic year, any college or university that is not yet accredited and is engaged in concurrent enrollment courses at a public high school or CIHS program must continue to undergo the annual state authorization review by the CIHS Standards Report Review Committee.

CTE programs are exempt from accreditation requirements.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: CIHS programs provide access to college programs for high school students. This bill ensures that those courses are taught with the same rigor and standards that we expect of courses taught on a college campus. We want our students to have a college experience that prepares them to be successful in future courses and to do that we must ensure that they are rigorous and held to high standards. This is the right thing to do for our students and their families and certainly for the teachers who teach in these courses. This bill is supported by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Council of Presidents and passed the house 98 to 0. This bill ensures the quality of college in the high school courses by requiring national accreditation. It is important that we ensure these classes are high quality and that students receive a meaningful college experience.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Representative Mari Leavitt, Prime Sponsor; Cody Eccles, Council of Presidents; Ruben Flores, Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.