
HOUSE BILL 1821

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representatives Slatter, Timmons, and Pollet

Read first time 02/13/23. Referred to Committee on Postsecondary Education & Workforce.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a postsecondary credential
2 transparency work group; and adding new sections to chapter 28C.18
3 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) A credential transparency work group is created within the
8 board.

9 (2) The purpose of the credential transparency work group is to:

10 (a) Increase postsecondary credential transparency by improving,
11 through a student-centered and worker-centered focus, the ability of
12 students, workers, employers, educators, policymakers, and the
13 general public to better understand, evaluate, and make decisions
14 about the full range of credentials delivered or issued in, or funded
15 or governed by, the state;

16 (b) Identify and disseminate valuable fields of information
17 across credentials to support understanding, evaluation, and decision
18 making. Such fields include, but are not limited to, credential type,
19 time to degree, initial and potential lifetime earnings, employer
20 demand location, modality, credential provider, and potential job and
21 career paths;

1 (c) Review existing state credential platforms, data
2 infrastructures, and projects; and

3 (d) Identify best practices to increase postsecondary credential
4 transparency through, for example, the state board of education
5 mastery-based learning initiative in K-12, existing programs at state
6 institutions of higher education, licensing, registered
7 apprenticeships, and career connected learning.

8 (3) The credential transparency work group shall provide
9 recommendations to, and may contract with, at least one state
10 credential transparency platform. The work group shall consider
11 credential transparency platforms, statutes, and policies in other
12 states in recommending or developing the following:

13 (a) A shared definition of credential;

14 (b) Common credential terminology;

15 (c) Changes, if needed, to state credential platforms, data
16 infrastructures, and projects to support understanding, transparency,
17 evaluation, and decision making;

18 (d) A proposal to establish K-12 credential recommendations to
19 advance the multiple graduation pathways framework enacted in 2019,
20 and to recognize learning that occurs through paid work and career
21 connected learning opportunities;

22 (e) A statewide communications plan to increase credential
23 awareness among credential providers and potential users including,
24 but not limited to, students, workers, employers, teachers, guidance
25 counselors, and parents; and

26 (f) The continuation and scope of its work under subsection (2)
27 of this section.

28 (4) The credential transparency work group shall identify up to
29 four workforce industry sectors that have statewide reach and
30 contribute to the state's workforce development system. Each industry
31 shall select two of its statewide occupations to test concepts of
32 credential transparency through demonstration projects. Each industry
33 shall select a network of partners to fulfill the requirements of the
34 demonstration projects.

35 (a) Each of the four industry sector demonstration projects must:

36 (i) Identify diverse approaches to obtaining credentials across a
37 range of providers within the chosen occupations;

38 (ii) Chart the skills, behaviors, abilities, and knowledge
39 required for occupational pathways within the chosen occupations; and

1 (iii) Collect credential data within the chosen occupations,
2 defined and determined by the work group using the common credential
3 terminology.

4 (b) The industry sectors shall report to the work group the
5 preliminary results of the data collected under this subsection by
6 June 1, 2024, and final results by July 1, 2025.

7 (c) To the extent possible, the work group shall incorporate the
8 data and information collected under (a) of this subsection into web-
9 based tools and services, maintained and published by the board, that
10 present information to allow users such as students, workers,
11 employers, educators, and others to understand, evaluate, and make
12 decisions about credentials and maximize the user's most equitable
13 outcome.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) The board shall staff the credential transparency work group
17 and administer funds and other resources to support the industry-led
18 demonstration projects established in section 1 of this act.

19 (2) The credential transparency work group must consist of, but
20 is not limited to, representatives from the following groups:

21 (a) The public four-year institutions of higher education;

22 (b) The community and technical colleges;

23 (c) The independent colleges of Washington member institutions;

24 (d) Industry;

25 (e) Postsecondary and K-12 students;

26 (f) The state board for community and technical colleges;

27 (g) The council of presidents;

28 (h) The independent colleges of Washington;

29 (i) The office of the superintendent of public instruction;

30 (j) The state board of education;

31 (k) The employment security department;

32 (l) The Washington student achievement council;

33 (m) The northwest career colleges federation;

34 (n) The state's workforce development councils;

35 (o) The Washington state apprenticeship and training council;

36 (p) Career connect Washington;

37 (q) The department of licensing; and

38 (r) The department of veterans affairs.

1 (3) The credential transparency work group shall report to the
2 appropriate committees of the legislature, in accordance with RCW
3 43.01.036, findings from and recommendations for section 1(3) of this
4 act by September 30, 2024.

5 (4) The credential transparency work group shall report to the
6 appropriate committees of the legislature, in accordance with RCW
7 43.01.036, findings and recommendations from section 1(4) of this act
8 by September 30, 2025, and each September 30th thereafter.

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