
HOUSE BILL 2501

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Representatives Ogden, Jacobsen, Quall, Carlson, Pruitt, Shin, Van Luven, J. Kohl, Dyer, Talcott, Forner, Long, Springer and Wood

Read first time 01/17/94. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to credit equivalencies for credits earned at
2 institutions of higher education; amending RCW 28A.305.220; creating a
3 new section; providing an expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** By May 1, 1994, or as soon as possible
6 thereafter, the higher education coordinating board and the state board
7 of education, in cooperation with the superintendent of public
8 instruction, the commission on student learning, and the state board
9 for community and technical colleges shall convene a task force to
10 recommend a process for evaluating credits earned in an institution of
11 higher education toward a high school diploma or certificate of
12 mastery. In selecting members of the task force, the boards shall
13 consult representatives of the school directors, school administrators,
14 teachers, faculty, students, counselors, vocational directors, parents,
15 and other interested organizations. The process shall be designed to
16 accomplish goals that include but need not be limited to:

17 (1) Recognizing the changing nature of educational instruction and
18 crediting, and awarding appropriate credit for knowledge and

1 competencies learned in a variety of ways in both institutions of
2 higher education and high schools;

3 (2) Encouraging students to enroll in programs and institutions
4 that will best meet the students' needs and educational goals;

5 (3) Creating uniform articulation agreements between institutions
6 of higher education and the common school system for granting
7 appropriate credit for competencies and knowledge learned in high
8 schools, colleges, or universities; and

9 (4) Creating a forum for ongoing discussion of curriculum issues
10 that transect higher education and the common schools.

11 By December 15, 1994, after considering the advice of the task
12 force, the higher education coordinating board and the state board of
13 education shall report their recommendations on establishing credit
14 equivalencies to the house of representatives and senate education and
15 higher education committees.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.305.220 and 1984 c 178 s 1 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (1) The state board of education shall develop for use by all
19 public school districts a standardized high school transcript. The
20 state board of education shall establish clear definitions for the
21 terms "credits" and "hours" so that school programs operating on the
22 quarter, semester, or trimester system can be compared. For high
23 school students who attend college and university classes, and for
24 students enrolled in community college adult high school completion
25 programs, five quarter or three semester hour credits successfully
26 completed at the college or university level shall equal the credit
27 generated by one hundred fifty hours of high school instruction.

28 (2) Transcripts are important documents to students who will apply
29 for admission to postsecondary institutions of higher education.
30 Transcripts are also important to students who will seek employment
31 upon or prior to graduation from high school. It is recognized that
32 student transcripts may be the only record available to employers in
33 their decision-making processes regarding prospective employees. The
34 superintendent of public instruction shall require school districts to
35 inform annually all high school students that prospective employers may
36 request to see transcripts and that the prospective employee's decision
37 to release transcripts can be an important part of the process of
38 applying for employment.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 2 of this act shall expire August
2 31, 1995.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
4 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
5 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
6 effect immediately.

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