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SENATE BILL 5870

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen, Kline, Kohl-Welles and Mulliken

Read first time 02/10/2005. Referred to Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to admission standards for public four-year  
2 institutions of higher education; amending RCW 28B.76.290; and creating  
3 a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the United States  
6 military academy at West Point, Virginia, the naval academy in  
7 Annapolis, Maryland, and the air force academy in Colorado Springs,  
8 Colorado actively combat a history of prior discrimination and have  
9 strong policies to admit a diverse student body. The military service  
10 academies work to create a truly integrated officer corps. The  
11 legislature finds that the standards that are appropriate for creating  
12 diversity at these prestigious institutions are also appropriate for  
13 entrance into our state's four-year institutions of higher education.  
14 The standards that are good enough for selecting students who will be  
15 called upon to give their lives for this nation should also apply when  
16 selecting students who are simply starting their college careers.  
17 These same policies that make our military strong will strengthen our  
18 classrooms and campuses and provide for our short and long-term  
19 economic effectiveness.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.76.290 and 1993 c 77 s 2 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       The board shall coordinate educational activities among all  
4 segments of higher education taking into account the educational  
5 programs, facilities, and other resources of both public and  
6 independent two and four-year colleges and universities. The four-year  
7 institutions and the state board for community and technical colleges  
8 shall coordinate information and activities with the board. The board  
9 shall have the following additional responsibilities:

10       (1) Promote interinstitutional cooperation;

11       (2) Establish minimum admission standards for four-year  
12 institutions, including a requirement that coursework in American sign  
13 language or an American Indian language shall satisfy any requirement  
14 for instruction in a language other than English that the board or the  
15 institutions may establish as a general undergraduate admissions  
16 requirement. In establishing minimum entrance standards, the board  
17 shall include policies identical to those used by the United States  
18 military academy to create a diverse student body;

19       (3) Establish transfer policies;

20       (4) Adopt rules implementing statutory residency requirements;

21       (5) Develop and administer reciprocity agreements with bordering  
22 states and the province of British Columbia;

23       (6) Review and recommend compensation practices and levels for  
24 administrative employees, exempt under chapter ((28B.16)) 41.06 RCW,  
25 and faculty using comparative data from peer institutions;

26       (7) Monitor higher education activities for compliance with all  
27 relevant state policies for higher education;

28       (8) Arbitrate disputes between and among four-year institutions or  
29 between and among four-year institutions and community colleges at the  
30 request of one or more of the institutions involved, or at the request  
31 of the governor, or from a resolution adopted by the legislature. The  
32 decision of the board shall be binding on the participants in the  
33 dispute;

34       (9) Establish and implement a state system for collecting,  
35 analyzing, and distributing information;

36       (10) Recommend to the governor and the legislature ways to remove  
37 any economic incentives to use off-campus program funds for on-campus  
38 activities; and

1           (11) Make recommendations to increase minority participation, and  
2 monitor and report on the progress of minority participation in higher  
3 education.

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