

E2SHB 2783 - S COMM AMD
By Committee on Higher Education

OUT OF ORDER 03/07/2008

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that students are
4 accessing higher education differently than they have in previous
5 years. Rather than attending a single institution and attaining their
6 degree, many students now attend multiple institutions, sometimes
7 simultaneously.

8 The legislature also finds that learning occurs throughout a
9 person's lifetime. Whether citizens need different training to change
10 careers or need further education for career advancement, people exit
11 and reenter institutions of higher education multiple times and for
12 various reasons.

13 The legislature also finds that current policies and practices do
14 not provide clear, consistent, easily accessible information to ease
15 transition in and among the state's colleges and universities. Often,
16 courses taken at some career and technical schools as well as private
17 for-profit institutions are not accepted in transfer because these
18 schools are not accredited by a regional accrediting body. Students
19 often do not understand that these courses are not transferrable.
20 Students must retake courses once they have transferred into a
21 regionally accredited institution, costing the student additional time
22 and money.

23 Therefore, it is the legislature's intent to improve statewide
24 communication and coordination of transfer and articulation policies
25 and practices. Students should be provided clear, consistent
26 information regarding the courses required for their degrees and how
27 those courses will be treated when a student moves between colleges and
28 universities. This information should be communicated to students and
29 their families in one easily accessible place in a format that is
30 common among all colleges and universities in the state.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) The higher education coordinating board shall convene a work
4 group of representatives from the state board for community and
5 technical colleges, the office of the superintendent of public
6 instruction, the council of presidents, and two-year and four-year
7 institutions of higher education including students, to develop a list
8 of rights guaranteed to students who have earned a transfer associate
9 degree under the direct transfer agreement. The work group may be an
10 existing work group that addresses policy issues related to transitions
11 among public and private institutions of higher education and may also
12 include representatives from the independent colleges of Washington, as
13 well as the career and tribal colleges.

14 (2) The list in subsection (1) of this section shall be known as
15 the transfer student bill of rights and shall include statements of
16 institutional policy regarding transfer and articulation to assist
17 students who have earned a transfer associate degree in their academic
18 planning. The list shall include but is not limited to:

19 (a) Admission to each public and private two-year and four-year
20 institution of higher education that participates in the direct
21 transfer agreement;

22 (b) The number of credits that will transfer;

23 (c) Academic requirements fulfilled by the degree at the receiving
24 institution;

25 (d) Acceptance of credit earned in dual enrollment and accelerated
26 programs such as advanced placement, running start, and international
27 baccalaureate;

28 (e) Acceptance of credits earned at nonregionally accredited
29 institutions; and

30 (f) Advance knowledge of selection criteria for limited access
31 programs.

32 (3) The work group shall determine which elements in this section
33 are guaranteed to students entering a four-year institution of higher
34 education and which elements differ based on admission requirements at
35 a specific institution or program. The work group must determine the
36 clearest manner in which to communicate this information to students
37 and their families as part of the transfer student bill of rights.

1 (4) The transfer student bill of rights shall be displayed
2 prominently in a user-friendly area of each institution's web site.
3 Admissions offices, transfer planning offices, recruiting offices and
4 other relevant offices at public and private institutions of higher
5 education shall also make the transfer student bill of rights available
6 to prospective and enrolled students. Public institutions of higher
7 education shall make the bill of rights available by September 2009.
8 The transfer student bill of rights may also be used by private
9 institutions of higher education participating in direct transfer
10 agreements.

11 (5) For purposes of this section, "nonregionally accredited
12 institutions" means only those institutions that are fully accredited
13 by a national accrediting agency recognized by the United States
14 department of education.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10 RCW
16 to read as follows:

17 (1) Consistent with the statewide strategic master plan for higher
18 education, the higher education coordinating board shall convene a work
19 group identified in section 2(1) of this act that shall recommend the
20 best means to identify, at the time of registration, the
21 transferability and applicability of community and technical college
22 courses to students' baccalaureate degree goals.

23 (2) Whether and to what extent each course published in an
24 institutional catalog is transferrable must be identified in a manner
25 mutually agreed upon by the two-year institutions of higher education
26 and four-year institutions of higher education.

27 (3) Institutions of higher education must publish this information
28 either on the internet, in physical course catalogs, or by another
29 means identified by the work group that addresses the needs of students
30 without access to the internet.

31 (4) The system of identification in this section shall be
32 implemented by September 2009.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.76 RCW
34 to read as follows:

35 (1) Consistent with the statewide strategic master plan for higher
36 education, the higher education coordinating board shall convene a work

1 group identified in section 2(1) of this act that will recommend the
2 best means to identify, at the time of registration, the
3 transferability and applicability of community and technical college
4 courses to students' baccalaureate degree goals.

5 (2) Whether and to what extent each course published in an
6 institutional catalog is transferrable must be identified in a manner
7 mutually agreed upon by the two-year institutions of higher education
8 and four-year institutions of higher education.

9 (3) Institutions of higher education shall publish this
10 information:

11 (a) On the internet; and

12 (b) In physical course catalogs or by another means identified by
13 the work group that meets the needs of students lacking access to the
14 internet.

15 (4) The system of identification in this section shall be
16 implemented by September 2009.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) Consistent with the schedule and work
18 plans for implementation of the strategic master plan for higher
19 education, the higher education coordinating board shall convene a work
20 group or assign an existing work group that includes broad
21 representation from the workforce training and education coordinating
22 board, the state board for community and technical colleges,
23 institutions of higher education, the independent colleges of
24 Washington, the career and tribal colleges, the center for information
25 services, student representatives from two-year and four-year
26 institutions of higher education, and the office of the superintendent
27 of public instruction to create a detailed plan for developing and
28 implementing a statewide web-based academic planning tool. The
29 web-based academic planning tool would be used by current, prospective,
30 and returning students to plan their path from high school through the
31 attainment of their higher education goals.

32 (2) The plan shall contain information including, but not limited
33 to:

34 (a) Functions that will be included in the web site;

35 (b) Options for development including, but not limited to:
36 Purchasing the entire system from a vendor; purchasing parts of the

1 system from a private vendor; building parts of the system with
2 Washington informational technology resources; and building the entire
3 system with Washington information technology resources; and

4 (c) Costs associated with each of the options in this subsection.

5 (3) The higher education coordinating board shall report to the
6 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 15, 2008. The
7 report shall include recommendations on the most robust yet cost-
8 effective options for the web-based academic planning tool.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
10 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
11 June 30, 2008, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
12 void."

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13 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "education;" strike the
14 remainder of the title and insert "adding new sections to chapter
15 28B.10 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28B.76 RCW; and creating
16 new sections."

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