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HOUSE BILL 2109

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Anderson and Wallace

Read first time 02/08/2007. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to providing students with knowledge about their  
2 readiness for college-level course work; adding new sections to chapter  
3 28B.10 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.320 RCW; and creating  
4 a new section.

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

6            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that many high school  
7 students are unaware until they enroll in an institution of higher  
8 education and take college placement tests of what the entry-level  
9 college expectations are for mathematics, reading, writing, and  
10 English. The legislature further finds that an unacceptably high  
11 number of students entering institutions of higher education are  
12 unprepared to do college-level mathematics, reading, or writing, and  
13 require remedial instruction. This remedial instruction imposes  
14 additional costs and burdens on students by increasing the time it  
15 takes for them to reach their educational goals, and increases the  
16 state's costs associated with higher education.

17            The legislature further finds that while five out of the six public  
18 baccalaureate institutions use the mathematics placement test,  
19 developed by the University of Washington, to determine whether

1 enrolled students are prepared for college-level mathematics, each  
2 community and technical college uses a different combination of  
3 placement tests. Even if two community or technical colleges use the  
4 same placement tests, they may have different cut scores for  
5 determining eligibility for college-level mathematics and other  
6 courses.

7 The legislature intends to provide students with more certainty and  
8 predictability regarding their readiness for college-level mathematics,  
9 reading, writing, and English.

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

12 (1) By January 1, 2008, the University of Washington, in  
13 consultation with the state board for community and technical colleges,  
14 shall examine, and revise if necessary, the mathematics placement test  
15 to make the test applicable to the college entry expectations in  
16 mathematics for both the four-year and two-year institutions of higher  
17 education.

18 (2)(a) Each four-year institution of higher education that requires  
19 students to take a standardized test to demonstrate college readiness  
20 in mathematics and each community or technical college shall adopt a  
21 minimum score for each of the mathematics placement test (MPT), the  
22 mathematics portion of scholastic aptitude test (SAT), and the  
23 mathematics portion of the American college test (ACT), and shall allow  
24 students to demonstrate college readiness in mathematics by achieving  
25 a score equal to or greater than the minimum score set by the  
26 institution for any of the tests.

27 (b) Each four-year institution of higher education that requires  
28 students to take a standardized test to demonstrate college readiness  
29 in writing, reading, or English and each community or technical college  
30 shall adopt a minimum score for both the verbal portion of scholastic  
31 aptitude test (SAT) and the verbal portion of the American college test  
32 (ACT), and shall allow students to demonstrate college readiness in  
33 reading, writing, or English by achieving a score equal to or greater  
34 than the minimum score set by the institution for either of the tests.

35 (c) Four-year institutions of higher education that require  
36 standardized test scores to demonstrate college readiness and the  
37 community and technical colleges may allow, but shall not require,

1 students to demonstrate college readiness in mathematics, reading,  
2 writing, or English by other means, including but not limited to scores  
3 on other standardized tests and courses completed in high school or at  
4 other postsecondary institutions.

5 (3) Each four-year institution of higher education that requires  
6 students to take a standardized test to demonstrate college readiness  
7 in mathematics, reading, writing, or English and each community and  
8 technical college shall publish its minimum required scores on its web  
9 site and shall submit its minimum required scores, and any changes to  
10 the scores, to the higher education coordinating board. Each community  
11 and technical college shall also provide its minimum required scores,  
12 and any changes to the scores, to the state board for community and  
13 technical colleges.

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

16 The four-year institutions of higher education shall not provide  
17 precollege level course work in mathematics, reading, writing, or  
18 English, except for English courses for English language learners. The  
19 four-year institutions of higher education shall notify enrolled  
20 students who do not place into college-level course work in  
21 mathematics, reading, writing, or English that they may enroll in  
22 precollege-level course work at a community or technical college or an  
23 independent institution of higher education.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320  
25 RCW to read as follows:

26 (1) Beginning in the fall of 2008, school districts shall provide  
27 all high school students enrolled in the district the option of taking  
28 the mathematics placement test (MPT) developed by the University of  
29 Washington and the scholastic aptitude test (SAT) or the American  
30 college test (ACT) once at no cost to the students. Districts shall  
31 encourage, but not require, students to take these tests in their  
32 junior or senior year of high school.

33 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
34 reimburse each district for the costs incurred by the district in  
35 providing students the opportunity to take the MPT and the SAT or ACT

1 once. The superintendent of public instruction is encouraged to work  
2 with the test publishers to secure fee waivers for the administration  
3 of the tests.

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