

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**HOUSE BILL 1736**

63rd Legislature  
2013 Regular Session

Passed by the House April 22, 2013  
Yeas 92 Nays 3

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate April 17, 2013  
Yeas 47 Nays 0

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**President of the Senate**

Approved

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **HOUSE BILL 1736** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

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**Chief Clerk**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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HOUSE BILL 1736

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2013 Regular Session

State of Washington                      63rd Legislature                      2013 Regular Session

By Representatives Zeiger, Seaquist, Haler, Pollet, Ryu, Sawyer, Bergquist, Magendanz, and Farrell

Read first time 02/06/13. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to higher education operating efficiencies;  
2 amending RCW 28B.85.020; adding a new section to chapter 28B.10 RCW;  
3 adding a new section to chapter 28B.15 RCW; creating a new section; and  
4 providing an expiration date.

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

6            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** (1) In order to enhance the efficiency and  
7 effectiveness of operations of institutions of higher education, the  
8 office of financial management shall work with the department of  
9 enterprise services, the department of transportation, the department  
10 of commerce, institutions of higher education, and others as necessary  
11 to comprehensively review reporting requirements related to the  
12 provisions in RCW 19.27A.020, 19.27A.150, 70.235.020, 39.35D.020,  
13 43.19.565, 43.41.130, 47.01.440, 70.94.151, 70.94.161, 70.94.527,  
14 70.120A.010, 70.120A.050, 70.235.030, 70.235.040, 70.235.050,  
15 70.235.060, 70.235.070, 80.80.030, 80.80.040, and 80.80.080. By  
16 September 1, 2014, the office of financial management shall report to  
17 the governor and the higher education committees of the legislature.  
18 The report shall include recommendations for coordinating and

1 streamlining reporting, and promoting the most efficient use of state  
2 resources at institutions of higher education.

3 (2) This section expires August 1, 2015.

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

6 (1) Institutions of higher education and state higher education  
7 agencies may use or accept secure electronic signatures for any human  
8 resource, benefits, or payroll processes that require a signature.  
9 Such signatures are valid and enforceable.

10 (2) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this  
11 section.

12 (a) "Electronic signature" means an electronic sound, symbol, or  
13 process, attached to, or logically associated with, a contract or other  
14 record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the  
15 record.

16 (b) "Secure electronic signature" means an electronic signature  
17 that:

18 (i) Is unique to the person making the signature;

19 (ii) Uses a technology or process to make the signature that is  
20 under the sole control of the person making the signature;

21 (iii) Uses a technology or process that can identify the person  
22 using the technology or process; and

23 (iv) Can be linked with an electronic record in such a way that it  
24 can be used to determine whether the electronic record has been changed  
25 since the electronic signature was incorporated in, attached to, or  
26 associated with the electronic record.

27 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.85.020 and 2012 c 229 s 543 are each amended to  
28 read as follows:

29 (1) The council:

30 (a) Shall adopt by rule, in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW,  
31 minimum standards for degree-granting institutions concerning granting  
32 of degrees, quality of education, unfair business practices, financial  
33 stability, and other necessary measures to protect citizens of this  
34 state against substandard, fraudulent, or deceptive practices. The  
35 rules shall require that an institution operating in Washington:

36 (i) Be accredited;

1 (ii) Have applied for accreditation and such application is pending  
2 before the accrediting agency;

3 (iii) Have been granted a waiver by the council waiving the  
4 requirement of accreditation; or

5 (iv) Have been granted an exemption by the council from the  
6 requirements of this subsection (1)(a);

7 (b) May investigate any entity the council reasonably believes to  
8 be subject to the jurisdiction of this chapter. In connection with the  
9 investigation, the council may administer oaths and affirmations, issue  
10 subpoenas and compel attendance, take evidence, and require the  
11 production of any books, papers, correspondence, memorandums, or other  
12 records which the council deems relevant or material to the  
13 investigation. The council, including its staff and any other  
14 authorized persons, may conduct site inspections, the cost of which  
15 shall be borne by the institution, and examine records of all  
16 institutions subject to this chapter;

17 (c) May negotiate and enter into interstate reciprocity agreements  
18 with other state or multistate entities if the agreements are  
19 consistent with the purposes in this chapter as determined by the  
20 council;

21 (d) May enter into agreements with degree-granting institutions of  
22 higher education based in this state, that are otherwise exempt under  
23 the provisions of subsection (1)(a) of this section, for the purpose of  
24 ensuring consistent consumer protection in interstate distance delivery  
25 of higher education;

26 (e) Shall develop an interagency agreement with the workforce  
27 training and education coordinating board to regulate degree-granting  
28 private vocational schools with respect to degree and nondegree  
29 programs; and

30 ((+d)) (f) Shall develop and disseminate information to the public  
31 about entities that sell or award degrees without requiring appropriate  
32 academic achievement at the postsecondary level, including but not  
33 limited to, a description of the substandard and potentially fraudulent  
34 practices of these entities, and advice about how the public can  
35 recognize and avoid the entities. To the extent feasible, the  
36 information shall include links to additional resources that may assist  
37 the public in identifying specific institutions offering substandard or  
38 fraudulent degree programs.

1 (2) Financial disclosures provided to the council by degree-  
2 granting private vocational schools are not subject to public  
3 disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.15 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) One student advisory committee may be formed at each four-year  
7 institution of higher education by that institution's recognized  
8 student government organization for the purpose of advising and  
9 assisting the administration of that four-year institution of higher  
10 education on issues that directly affect students' ability to access  
11 and succeed in their educational programs. Issues that the student  
12 advisory committee may consider include:

- 13 (a) The institution's annual budget;
- 14 (b) Tuition and fee levels;
- 15 (c) Financial aid policies;
- 16 (d) Long-range budget priorities and allocation planning; and
- 17 (e) Admission and enrollment policies.

18 (2) Members of a student advisory committee may be appointed in a  
19 manner that is consistent with policies adopted by the recognized  
20 student government organizations at each institution. If there is both  
21 an undergraduate and graduate recognized student government  
22 organization at one institution, members of the student advisory  
23 committee may be appointed in a manner consistent with policies adopted  
24 by both organizations.

25 (3) The administration of each four-year institution of higher  
26 education must: (a) Make readily available all nonconfidential  
27 information, documents, and reports requested by the student advisory  
28 committee and that are necessary for the committee to provide informed  
29 recommendations; and (b) provide the opportunity to present  
30 recommendations to the boards of regents or trustees before final  
31 decisions of the administration that relate to the issues described in  
32 subsection (1) of this section.

33 (4) A student advisory committee must: (a) Make reasonable efforts  
34 to solicit feedback from students regarding the issues described in  
35 subsection (1) of this section and matters that are of general interest  
36 and impact students; and (b) take reasonable steps to keep students

1 informed of deliberations and actions of the student advisory  
2 committee.

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