

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5180**

63rd Legislature  
2013 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate March 4, 2013  
YEAS 49 NAYS 0

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**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 15, 2013  
YEAS 76 NAYS 21

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5180** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

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**Secretary**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5180**

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Passed Legislature - 2013 Regular Session

**State of Washington**

**63rd Legislature**

**2013 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Higher Education (originally sponsored by Senators Shin, Roach, Benton, Conway, Harper, Keiser, Sheldon, McAuliffe, Hill, Hatfield, Frockt, Schlicher, and Kline)

READ FIRST TIME 02/18/13.

1       AN ACT Relating to improving access to higher education for  
2 students with disabilities; creating new sections; and providing an  
3 expiration date.

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

5       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that postsecondary  
6 education helps individuals to become productive and contributing  
7 members of society, and that individuals with disabilities are equally  
8 benefited by obtaining postsecondary education. The legislature also  
9 finds that students with disabilities face a disproportionate number of  
10 challenges when transitioning to postsecondary education, and that  
11 people who have disabilities are less than half as likely to have a  
12 baccalaureate degree compared to people who do not have a disability.  
13 The legislature finds it is incumbent upon the state to address these  
14 challenges in order to provide all students in Washington state with an  
15 equal opportunity to pursue a successful future.

16       In calling together a diverse group of experts from throughout the  
17 state, the legislature intends to develop recommendations that will  
18 directly increase the success rate for students with disabilities who

1 are transitioning from secondary to postsecondary education, which are  
2 distinctively different parts of the educational system.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A legislative task force on improving  
4 access to higher education for students with disabilities is  
5 established.

6 (2) The task force must collaborate to carry out the following  
7 goals:

8 (a) Make the transition from K-12 education to higher education  
9 more seamless and successful;

10 (b) Select a statewide method of sharing best practices between and  
11 among K-12 education institutions and postsecondary education  
12 institutions;

13 (c) Review documentation of disabilities at postsecondary education  
14 institutions, including developing resources for how school districts,  
15 in collaboration with students and their families, can get disability  
16 documentation applicable for postsecondary education institutions  
17 completed before a student's high school graduation; and

18 (d) Create a plan for how school districts and postsecondary  
19 education institutions can improve outreach to students and their  
20 families regarding available options in higher education.

21 (3) The task force must consist of not more than twenty-nine  
22 members and must include the following members:

23 (a) Seven members appointed by the governor as follows:

24 (i) Four private citizens with experience advocating and providing  
25 services for students with disabilities, at least one of whom must  
26 currently be or who in the past was a parent of a student with a  
27 disability, at least one of whom must be a current student at a  
28 postsecondary education institution in Washington, and at least one of  
29 whom must have experience advocating for veterans with disabilities;  
30 and

31 (ii) Three representatives from nonprofit organizations focused on  
32 advocating for citizens with disabilities or providing services for  
33 citizens with disabilities, or both;

34 (b) Eight members appointed by the office of the superintendent of  
35 public instruction as follows:

36 (i) Two representatives from the office of the superintendent of  
37 public instruction;

1 (ii) Two representatives from educational service districts; and  
2 (iii) Four representatives from local school districts that have  
3 high concentrations of students with disabilities enrolled in the  
4 district;

5 (c) Four members appointed by the state board for community and  
6 technical colleges as follows:

7 (i) One representative from the state board for community and  
8 technical colleges; and

9 (ii) Three representatives from public community or technical  
10 colleges;

11 (d) Four members appointed by the council of presidents, including  
12 one representative from the council and three representatives from a  
13 regional university as defined in RCW 28B.10.016;

14 (e) One member appointed by the superintendent of the state school  
15 for the blind, from the state school for the blind;

16 (f) One member appointed by the secretary of the department of  
17 social and health services, from the department of social and health  
18 services;

19 (g) One member appointed by the executive secretary of the  
20 governor's committee on disability issues and employment, from the  
21 governor's committee on disability issues and employment;

22 (h) One member appointed by the chair of the developmental  
23 disabilities council, from the developmental disabilities council;

24 (i) One member appointed by the superintendent of the state school  
25 for the deaf, from the state school for the deaf; and

26 (j) One member appointed by the workforce training and education  
27 coordinating board, from the workforce training and education  
28 coordinating board.

29 (4) The purpose of the task force is to make recommendations to the  
30 legislature and to coordinate and implement the goals in subsection (2)  
31 of this section.

32 (5)(a) When making the recommendations regarding subsection (2)(a)  
33 of this section, the task force must consider:

34 (i) How to ensure students' interests, goals, and strengths guide  
35 the transition planning process;

36 (ii) How to enable collaboration and communication between and  
37 among schools, institutions of higher education, and relevant state  
38 agencies to provide an effective transition;

1 (iii) How assessment and disability documentation that is  
2 acceptable to postsecondary institutions should best be determined and  
3 obtained;

4 (iv) How to identify the types of supports and accommodations that  
5 students will need in postsecondary environments;

6 (v) How students can plan their high school coursework to  
7 sufficiently prepare for the higher education environment; and

8 (vi) If a statewide database of student disability accommodation  
9 equipment, software, and resources owned by school districts and  
10 postsecondary education institutions should be created to assist  
11 students' educational transitions and, if created, what public entity  
12 is best suited to be responsible for the creation, maintenance, and the  
13 scope of that database.

14 (b) When making recommendations regarding subsection (2)(c) of this  
15 section, the task force is encouraged to consider:

16 (i) What should constitute a proper and complete documentation of  
17 a disability;

18 (ii) How recently the documentation must have been completed; and

19 (iii) Which testing information, if any, must be included in the  
20 documentation.

21 (6) The student achievement council must provide staff support to  
22 the task force within existing funds. The task force is encouraged to  
23 use technology to expand access and limit costs.

24 (7) The task force shall report its recommendations for each goal  
25 to the legislature by December 1, 2013, and annually each December 1st  
26 thereafter until expiration of the task force.

27 (8) This section expires January 1, 2016.

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