

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SENATE BILL 5122

Chapter 83, Laws of 2015

64th Legislature
2015 Regular Session

HIGHER EDUCATION--PRECOLLEGE PLACEMENT MEASURES

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/24/2015

Passed by the Senate March 4, 2015
Yeas 48 Nays 0

BRAD OWEN

President of the Senate

Passed by the House April 14, 2015
Yeas 96 Nays 1

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved April 24, 2015 3:20 PM

JAY INSLEE

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 **SENATE BILL 5122** as passed by Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

HUNTER G. GOODMAN

Secretary

FILED

April 25, 2015

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SENATE BILL 5122

Passed Legislature - 2015 Regular Session

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl-Welles, Frockt, Lias, Bailey, and McAuliffe

Read first time 01/14/15. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to precollege placement measures; amending RCW
2 28B.77.020; and adding a new section to chapter 28B.10 RCW.

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

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

6 State universities, regional universities, and The Evergreen
7 State College may use multiple measures to determine whether a
8 student must enroll in a precollege course including, but not limited
9 to, placement tests, the SAT, high school transcripts, college
10 transcripts, or initial class performance. Additionally, state
11 universities, regional universities, and The Evergreen State College
12 must post all the available options for course placement on their web
13 sites and in their admissions materials.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.77.020 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 25 s 6 are each
15 amended to read as follows:

16 (1) Aligned with the state's biennial budget and policy cycles,
17 the council shall propose educational attainment goals and priorities
18 to meet the state's evolving needs. The council shall identify
19 strategies for meeting the goals and priorities by means of a short-

1 term strategic action plan and a ten-year plan that serves as a
2 roadmap.

3 (a) The goals must address the needs of Washington residents to
4 reach higher levels of educational attainment and Washington's
5 workforce needs for certificates and degrees in particular fields of
6 study.

7 (b) The council shall identify the resources it deems appropriate
8 to meet statewide goals and also recognize current state economic
9 conditions and state resources.

10 (c) In proposing goals, the council shall collaborate with the
11 superintendent of public instruction, the professional educator
12 standards board, the state board of education, the state board for
13 community and technical colleges, the four-year institutions of
14 higher education, independent colleges and degree-granting
15 institutions, certificate-granting institutions, and the workforce
16 training and education coordinating board.

17 (2) The council shall update the strategic action plan every two
18 years with the first strategic action plan to be submitted to the
19 governor and the legislature by December 1, 2012. The ten-year
20 roadmap must be updated every two years with the first roadmap to be
21 submitted to the governor and the legislature by December 1, 2013.
22 The council must provide regular updates to the joint higher
23 education committee created in RCW 44.04.360 as needed.

24 (3) In order to develop the ten-year roadmap, the council shall
25 conduct strategic planning in collaboration with agencies and
26 stakeholders and include input from the legislature. The council must
27 also consult with the STEM education innovation alliance established
28 under RCW 28A.188.030 in order to align strategies under the roadmap
29 with the STEM framework for education and accountability developed by
30 the alliance. The roadmap must encompass all sectors of higher
31 education, including secondary to postsecondary transitions. The
32 roadmap must outline strategies that address:

33 (a) Strategic planning, which includes setting benchmarks and
34 goals for long-term degree production generally and in particular
35 fields of study;

36 (b) Expanding access, affordability, quality, efficiency, and
37 accountability among the various institutions of higher education;

38 (c) Higher education finance planning and strategic investments
39 including budget recommendations necessary to meet statewide goals;

40 (d) System design and coordination;

1 (e) Improving student transitions;

2 (f) Higher education data and analysis, in collaboration with the
3 education data center, which includes outcomes for recruitment,
4 retention, and success of students;

5 (g) College and career access preparedness, in collaboration with
6 the office of the superintendent of public instruction and the state
7 board of education;

8 (h) Expanding participation and success for racial and ethnic
9 minorities in higher education;

10 (i) Development and expansion of innovations in higher education
11 including innovations to increase attainment of postsecondary
12 certificates, and associate, baccalaureate, graduate, and
13 professional degrees; and innovations to improve precollege education
14 in terms of cost-effectiveness and transitions to college-level
15 education;

16 (j) Strengthening the education pipeline and degree production in
17 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields, and
18 aligning strategies under the roadmap with the STEM framework for
19 action and accountability developed under RCW 28A.188.030; and

20 (k) Relevant policy research.

21 (4) As needed, the council must conduct system reviews consistent
22 with RCW 28B.77.080.

23 (5) The council shall facilitate the development and expansion of
24 innovative practices within, between, and among the sectors to
25 increase educational attainment and assess the effectiveness of the
26 innovations.

27 (6) The council shall use the data and analysis produced by, and
28 in consultation with, the education data center created in RCW
29 43.41.400 in developing policy recommendations and proposing goals.
30 In conducting research and analysis the council at a minimum must:

31 (a) Identify barriers to increasing educational attainment,
32 evaluate effectiveness of various educational models, identify best
33 practices, and recommend methods to overcome barriers;

34 (b) Analyze data from multiple sources including data from
35 academic research and from areas and agencies outside of education
36 including but not limited to data from the department of health, the
37 department of corrections, and the department of social and health
38 services to determine best practices to remove barriers and to
39 improve educational attainment;

1 (c) Assess educational achievement disaggregated by income level,
2 age, gender, race and ethnicity, country of origin, and other
3 relevant demographic groups working with data from the education data
4 center;

5 (d) Track progress toward meeting the state's goals;

6 (e) Communicate results and provide access to data analysis to
7 policymakers, the superintendent of public instruction, institutions
8 of higher education, students, and the public; and

9 (f) Use data from the education data center wherever appropriate
10 to conduct duties in (a) through (e) of this subsection.

11 (7) The council shall collaborate with the appropriate state
12 agencies and stakeholders, including the state board of education,
13 the office of the superintendent of public instruction, the state
14 board for community and technical colleges, the workforce training
15 and education coordinating board, and the four-year institutions of
16 higher education to improve student transitions and success including
17 but not limited to:

18 (a) Setting minimum college admission standards for four-year
19 institutions of higher education, including:

20 (i) A requirement that coursework in American sign language or an
21 American Indian language satisfies any requirement for instruction in
22 a language other than English that the council or the institutions
23 may establish as a general undergraduate admissions requirement; and

24 (ii) Encouragement of the use of multiple measures to determine
25 whether a student must enroll in a precollege course, such as
26 placement tests, the SAT, high school transcripts, college
27 transcripts, or initial class performance;

28 (b) Proposing comprehensive policies and programs to encourage
29 students to prepare for, understand how to access, and pursue
30 postsecondary college and career programs, including specific
31 policies and programs for students with disabilities;

32 (c) Recommending policies that require coordination between or
33 among sectors such as dual high school-college programs, awarding
34 college credit for advanced high school work, and transfer between
35 two and four-year institutions of higher education or between
36 different four-year institutions of higher education; and

37 (d) Identifying transitions issues and solutions for students,
38 from high school to postsecondary education including community and
39 technical colleges, four-year institutions of higher education,
40 apprenticeships, training, or workplace education; between two-year

1 and four-year institutions of higher education; and from
2 postsecondary education to career. In addressing these issues the
3 council must recognize that these transitions may occur multiple
4 times as students continue their education.

5 (8) The council directs the work of the office, which includes
6 administration of student financial aid programs under RCW
7 28B.76.090, including the state need grant and other scholarships,
8 the Washington advanced college tuition payment program, and work-
9 study programs.

10 (9) The council may administer state and federal grants and
11 programs including but not limited to those programs that provide
12 incentives for improvements related to increased access and success
13 in postsecondary education.

14 (10) The council shall protect higher education consumers
15 including:

16 (a) Approving degree-granting postsecondary institutions
17 consistent with existing statutory criteria;

18 (b) Establishing minimum criteria to assess whether students who
19 attend proprietary institutions of higher education shall be eligible
20 for the state need grant and other forms of state financial aid.

21 (i) The criteria shall include retention rates, completion rates,
22 loan default rates, and annual tuition increases, among other
23 criteria for students who receive state need grant as in chapter
24 28B.92 RCW and any other state financial aid.

25 (ii) The council may remove proprietary institutions of higher
26 education from eligibility for the state need grant or other form of
27 state financial aid if it finds that the institution or college does
28 not meet minimum criteria.

29 (iii) The council shall report by December 1, 2014, to the joint
30 higher education committee in RCW 44.04.360 on the outcomes of
31 students receiving state need grants, impacts on meeting the state's
32 higher education goals for educational attainment, and options for
33 prioritization of the state need grant and possible consequences of
34 implementing each option. When examining options for prioritizing the
35 state need grant the council shall consider awarding grants based on
36 need rather than date of application and making awards based on other
37 criteria selected by the council.

38 (11) The council shall adopt residency requirements by rule.

39 (12) The council shall arbitrate disputes between and among four-
40 year institutions of higher education and the state board for

1 community and technical colleges at the request of one or more of the
2 institutions involved, or at the request of the governor, or from a
3 resolution adopted by the legislature. The decision of the council
4 shall be binding on the participants in the dispute.

5 (13) The council may solicit, accept, receive, and administer
6 federal funds or private funds, in trust, or otherwise, and contract
7 with foundations or with for-profit or nonprofit organizations to
8 support the purposes and functions of the council.

9 (14) The council shall represent the broad public interest above
10 the interests of the individual institutions of higher education.

Passed by the Senate March 4, 2015.

Passed by the House April 14, 2015.

Approved by the Governor April 24, 2015.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 25, 2015.