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## College & Workforce Development Committee

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### SSB 6142

**Brief Description:** Creating the Washington common application.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Senators Liias, Randall, Dhingra, Hasegawa, Mullet, Nguyen, Stanford, Carlyle and Wilson, C.; by request of Lieutenant Governor).

#### Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Requires the public four-year higher education institutions (institutions) to enroll in the same preexisting online common application for use in admitting students by the 2022-23 academic year.
- Permits the institutions to adopt a second preexisting online common application.

**Hearing Date:** 2/25/20

**Staff:** Megan Mulvihill (786-7304).

#### Background:

Higher education institutions have authority to determine individual admissions policies and procedures. This includes creation of an application form for admission and setting an application fee. Application fees for prospective undergraduate students range from \$50 to \$80 at public higher education institutions (institutions) in Washington. Most institutions have application fee waivers available for certain students. In addition, some institutions are members of college websites that include free, online college planning tools, such as college essay writing prompts, and a common application form. For example, the University of Washington is a member of Coalition for College and The Evergreen State College is a member of the Common App.

#### Summary of Bill:

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

Subject to appropriation, the public four-year higher education institutions must all enroll in the same preexisting online common application for use in admitting students by the 2022-23 academic year. The preexisting online common application adopted must include more than 500 institutional participants and have an established fee waiver process for low-income students. An institution may adopt a second preexisting online common application, as long as the application includes more than 100 institutional participants and has an established fee waiver process for low-income students.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.