
HOUSE BILL 1671

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Anderson, Schmick, and Angel

Read first time 01/27/09. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to higher education accountability; amending RCW
2 43.41.400; and creating a new section.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.41.400 and 2007 c 401 s 3 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) An education data center shall be established in the office of
7 financial management. The education data center shall jointly, with
8 the legislative ((~~education~~—[evaluation])) evaluation and
9 accountability program committee, conduct collaborative analyses of
10 early learning, K-12, and higher education programs and education
11 issues across the P-20 system, which includes the department of early
12 learning, the superintendent of public instruction, the professional
13 educator standards board, the state board of education, the state board
14 for community and technical colleges, the workforce training and
15 education coordinating board, the higher education coordinating board,
16 public and private nonprofit four-year institutions of higher
17 education, and the employment security department. The education data
18 center shall conduct collaborative analyses under this section with the
19 legislative evaluation and accountability program committee and provide

1 data electronically to the legislative evaluation and accountability
2 program committee, to the extent permitted by state and federal
3 confidentiality requirements. The education data center shall be
4 considered an authorized representative of the state educational
5 agencies in this section under applicable federal and state statutes
6 for purposes of accessing and compiling student record data for
7 research purposes.

8 (2) The education data center shall:

9 (a) Coordinate with other state education agencies to compile and
10 analyze education data, including data on student demographics that is
11 disaggregated by distinct ethnic categories within racial subgroups,
12 and complete P-20 research projects;

13 (b) Collaborate with the legislative evaluation and accountability
14 program committee and the education and fiscal committees of the
15 legislature in identifying the data to be compiled and analyzed to
16 ensure that legislative interests are served;

17 (c) Track enrollment and outcomes through the public centralized
18 higher education enrollment system;

19 (d) Assist other state educational agencies' collaborative efforts
20 to develop a long-range enrollment plan for higher education including
21 estimates to meet demographic and workforce needs; (~~and~~)

22 (e) Provide research that focuses on student transitions within and
23 among the early learning, K-12, and higher education sectors in the P-
24 20 system;

25 (f) Beginning December 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, report to
26 the higher education committees of the legislature on the percentage of
27 graduates, from public baccalaureate institutions of higher education,
28 who are employed in Washington. The report shall include:

29 (i) Employment rates at three quarters after graduation and at
30 fifteen quarters after graduation;

31 (ii) Employment rates by industry by major line of study;

32 (iii) Employment rates disaggregated by student characteristic
33 including race and ethnicity, gender, and receipt of student financial
34 assistance;

35 (g) Beginning on December 1, 2010, and every even-numbered year
36 thereafter, report to the higher education committees of the
37 legislature regarding student progress to degree. The public
38 institutions of higher education shall submit any additional data to

1 the education data center, under appropriate data sharing agreements,
2 that may be necessary to conduct the analysis. The report shall
3 include, but not be limited to:

4 (i) Longitudinal data analysis of resident undergraduate students'
5 major selection and course-taking behavior and the impact of those
6 factors on total credits earned upon graduation;

7 (ii) Analysis of progress to degree disaggregated by student
8 characteristic including race and ethnicity, gender, and prior academic
9 preparation. The analysis shall include students who enter
10 baccalaureate institutions of higher education directly from high
11 school and those who transfer from community and technical colleges.

12 (3) The department of early learning, superintendent of public
13 instruction, professional educator standards board, state board of
14 education, state board for community and technical colleges, workforce
15 training and education coordinating board, higher education
16 coordinating board, public four-year institutions of higher education,
17 and employment security department shall work with the education data
18 center to develop data-sharing and research agreements, consistent with
19 applicable security and confidentiality requirements, to facilitate the
20 work of the center. Private, nonprofit institutions of higher
21 education that provide programs of education beyond the high school
22 level leading at least to the baccalaureate degree and are accredited
23 by the Northwest association of schools and colleges or their peer
24 accreditation bodies may also develop data-sharing and research
25 agreements with the education data center, consistent with applicable
26 security and confidentiality requirements. The education data center
27 shall make data from collaborative analyses available to the education
28 agencies and institutions that contribute data to the education data
29 center to the extent allowed by federal and state security and
30 confidentiality requirements applicable to the data of each
31 contributing agency or institution.

32 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. (1) The higher education coordinating board
33 shall convene a work group that includes representatives from the
34 education data center, the state board for community and technical
35 colleges, the workforce education training and coordinating board, and
36 the employment security department. Representatives from the

1 independent colleges of Washington and the private vocational colleges
2 may participate. The work group shall:

3 (a) Recommend a process and timeline for creating and implementing
4 an online service through which employers could verify the completion
5 of a higher education degree or certificate, conferred by a public
6 institution of higher education, for individual employees or
7 individuals seeking employment. The service may be expanded to include
8 degrees conferred by private institutions of higher education;

9 (b) Identify potential issues with disclosure of personally
10 identifiable information and propose potential solutions; and

11 (c) Identify the resources necessary to create and maintain the
12 service, including but not limited to, contributions from employers
13 using the service.

14 (2) The higher education coordinating board shall report to the
15 appropriate committees of the legislature by September 1, 2010.

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