
HOUSE BILL 1674

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 improving the effectiveness and efficiency of
2 institutions of higher education; and adding a new section to chapter
3 28B.76 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.76 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The board shall convene and staff an effectiveness and
8 efficiency work group composed of representatives from the state board
9 for community and technical colleges, the council of presidents, and
10 the four-year institutions of higher education. The work group shall
11 review all aspects of the provision of higher education and recommend
12 action items and systemic changes designed to optimize the use of
13 resources and yield savings and cost avoidances that can be redirected
14 so as to maintain academic and research quality, accommodate enrollment
15 demands, and moderate tuition increases. During the course of the
16 review and recommendation process, the work group shall give
17 consideration to:

18 (a) Increasing collaboration among institutions of higher education

1 in academic offerings, technology applications, and the procurement of
2 materials, equipment, and energy;

3 (b) Identifying means for shortening the time to degree;

4 (c) Redesigning large, high enrollment undergraduate courses in
5 order to improve learning outcomes and reduce the per student cost;

6 (d) Establishing and reaching faculty workload goals;

7 (e) Packaging need-based financial aid in order to increase access
8 for low-income students, first generation students, and students of
9 color;

10 (f) Eradicating unnecessary barriers to transfer between
11 institutions; and

12 (g) Other means for optimizing the use of resources and achieving
13 financial savings at state, institutional, and student levels.

14 (2) The board, the state board for community and technical
15 colleges, the council of presidents, and the institutions of higher
16 education shall make every effort to implement recommended action items
17 and systemic changes, quantify the associated efficiencies and savings
18 to the extent possible, and redirect the savings to preserve academic
19 and research quality, accommodate enrollment demands, and moderate the
20 need for increased state funding and tuition increases.

21 (3) By December 1, 2010, and every two years thereafter, the board
22 shall report the recommended action items and systemic changes
23 identified by the work group to the higher education committees of the
24 house of representatives and the senate. The report shall include
25 information concerning the status of implementation of each item or
26 change, quantify the associated efficiencies and savings achieved,
27 identify how the savings were redirected, and identify any legislative
28 action needed to implement any recommended items or changes.

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