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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5616**

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**State of Washington**

**62nd Legislature**

**2011 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Tom, Litzow, McAuliffe, Hill, and Shin; by request of Governor Gregoire)

READ FIRST TIME 02/17/11.

1       AN ACT Relating to the opportunity to earn postsecondary credit  
2 during high school; amending RCW 28A.230.130; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 28B.10 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28B.76 RCW; and  
4 creating new sections.

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

6       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that approximately  
7 thirty-five percent of seniors in Washington high schools take less  
8 than a full load of classes during their senior year. The legislature  
9 further finds that many high schools provide students opportunities to  
10 take advanced courses in career and technical or academic fields that  
11 give students a head start when they begin their career or enter a  
12 technical training program or a college or university. The legislature  
13 also finds that since each individual institution of higher education  
14 adopts its own rules for awarding credit for advanced high school work,  
15 students can encounter unanticipated barriers to advancing their  
16 dreams. Students can also be discouraged from putting in that extra  
17 effort in high school if they are not certain whether their extra work  
18 will be appropriately credited toward a certificate or degree.

1 The legislature intends to help students progress from high school  
2 to a certificate or degree by increasing opportunities and providing a  
3 clear pathway. Twelfth grade will truly be the launch year as high  
4 schools increase the opportunities for students to take more advanced  
5 classes. In addition, this act provides for community and technical  
6 colleges and four-year institutions of higher education to publish a  
7 list of high school courses and adopt uniform scores for proficiency  
8 exams or competency requirements that will be given credit toward  
9 certificate or degree requirements.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.130 and 2009 c 212 s 2 are each amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 (1) All public high schools of the state shall provide a program,  
13 directly or in cooperation with a community college or another school  
14 district, for students whose educational plans include application for  
15 entrance to a baccalaureate-granting institution after being granted a  
16 high school diploma. The program shall help these students to meet at  
17 least the minimum entrance requirements under RCW 28B.10.050.

18 (2) All public high schools of the state shall provide a program,  
19 directly or in cooperation with a community or technical college, a  
20 skills center, an apprenticeship committee, or another school district,  
21 for students who plan to pursue career or work opportunities other than  
22 entrance to a baccalaureate-granting institution after being granted a  
23 high school diploma. These programs may:

24 (a) Help students demonstrate the application of essential academic  
25 learning requirements to the world of work, occupation-specific skills,  
26 knowledge of more than one career in a chosen pathway, and  
27 employability and leadership skills; and

28 (b) Help students demonstrate the knowledge and skill needed to  
29 prepare for industry certification, and/or have the opportunity to  
30 articulate to postsecondary education and training programs.

31 (3) Within existing resources, all public high schools in the state  
32 shall:

33 (a) Work towards the goal of offering a sufficient number of high  
34 school courses that give students the opportunity to earn the  
35 equivalent of a year's worth of postsecondary credit towards a  
36 certificate, apprenticeship program, technical degree, or associate or  
37 baccalaureate degree. These high school courses are those advanced

1 courses that have accompanying advanced placement, international  
2 baccalaureate, or other recognized college-level proficiency exams or  
3 demonstrated competencies that are used to demonstrate postsecondary  
4 knowledge and skills; and

5 (b) Inform students and their families, emphasizing communication  
6 to underrepresented groups, about the program offerings and the  
7 opportunities to take courses that qualify for postsecondary credit if  
8 the student earns the qualifying score on the college-level proficiency  
9 exam or through the demonstrated competency. This information shall  
10 encourage students to use the twelfth grade as the launch year for an  
11 advance start on their career and postsecondary education.

12 (4) A middle school that receives approval from the office of the  
13 superintendent of public instruction to provide a career and technical  
14 program in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics directly to  
15 students shall receive funding at the same rate as a high school  
16 operating a similar program. Additionally, a middle school that  
17 provides a hands-on experience in science, technology, engineering, or  
18 mathematics with an integrated curriculum of academic content and  
19 career and technical education, and includes a career and technical  
20 education exploratory component shall also qualify for the career and  
21 technical education funding.

22 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 28B.10 RCW  
23 to read as follows:

24 (1) By December 1, 2011, and by June of each odd-numbered year  
25 thereafter, the institutions of higher education shall collaboratively  
26 develop a master list of postsecondary courses that can be fulfilled by  
27 taking the advanced placement, international baccalaureate, or other  
28 recognized college-level proficiency examinations and meeting the  
29 agreed-upon examination score or demonstrated competencies for lower  
30 division general education requirements. The master list of  
31 postsecondary courses fulfilled by proficiency examinations or  
32 demonstrated competencies are those that fulfill lower division general  
33 education requirements or career and technical education requirements  
34 and qualify for postsecondary credit. From the master list, each  
35 institution shall create and publish a list of its courses that can be  
36 satisfied by successful proficiency examination scores or demonstrated  
37 competencies for lower division general education requirements.

1 (2) Institutions of higher education shall agree on examination  
2 qualifying scores and demonstrated competencies. Each institution  
3 shall use the same examination qualifying score and demonstrated  
4 competencies. The examination qualifying scores and demonstrated  
5 competencies shall be included in the published list under subsection  
6 (1) of this section.

7 (3) Each institution of higher education, in designing its  
8 certificate, technical degree program, two-year academic transfer  
9 program, or freshman and sophomore courses of a baccalaureate program,  
10 must recognize the equivalencies of at least one year of course credit  
11 that can be earned through successfully demonstrating proficiency on  
12 examinations, including but not limited to advanced placement and  
13 international baccalaureate examinations. The successful completion of  
14 the examination and the award of credit shall be noted on the student's  
15 college transcript.

16 (4) Each institution of higher education must clearly include in  
17 its admissions materials and on its web site the institution's list of  
18 postsecondary courses that can be fulfilled by proficiency examinations  
19 or demonstrated competencies and the agreed-upon examination scores and  
20 demonstrated competencies that qualify for postsecondary credit. Each  
21 institution must provide the information to the higher education  
22 coordinating board and state board for community and technical colleges  
23 in a form that the superintendent of public instruction is able to  
24 distribute to school districts.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.76 RCW  
26 to read as follows:

27 The higher education coordinating board shall annually publish on  
28 its web site the agreed-upon list of high school courses qualifying for  
29 postsecondary credit under section 3 of this act and examination  
30 qualifying scores and demonstrated competencies meeting the  
31 postsecondary requirements for a certificate or technical degree, a  
32 two-year academic transfer degree, or the lower division requirements  
33 for a baccalaureate degree.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act may be known and cited as the

1 launch year act.

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