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SENATE BILL 5974

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State of Washington                      62nd Legislature                      2011 2nd Special Session

By Senators Tom, Litzow, Kilmer, Fain, Hewitt, Chase, and Kohl-Welles;  
by request of Governor Gregoire

Read first time 12/07/11. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1            AN ACT Relating to demonstrating college level skills; and amending  
2            RCW 28B.10.053.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.10.053 and 2011 c 77 s 3 are each amended to read  
5            as follows:

6            (1) By December 1, 2011, and by June of each odd-numbered year  
7            thereafter, the institutions of higher education shall collaboratively  
8            develop a master list of postsecondary courses that can be fulfilled by  
9            taking the advanced placement, international baccalaureate, or other  
10            recognized college-level proficiency examinations, including but not  
11            limited to project lead the way examinations, and meeting the  
12            qualifying examination score or demonstrated competencies for lower  
13            division general education requirements or postsecondary professional  
14            technical requirements. The master list of postsecondary courses  
15            fulfilled by proficiency examinations or demonstrated competencies are  
16            those that fulfill lower division general education requirements or  
17            career and technical education requirements and qualify for  
18            postsecondary credit. From the master list, each institution shall  
19            create and publish a list of its courses that can be satisfied by

1 successful proficiency examination scores or demonstrated competencies  
2 for lower division general education requirements or postsecondary  
3 professional technical requirements. The qualifying examination scores  
4 and demonstrated competencies shall be included in the published list.  
5 The requirements to develop a master list under this section do not  
6 apply if an institution has a clearly published policy of awarding  
7 credit for the advanced placement, international baccalaureate, or  
8 other recognized college-level placement exams and does not require  
9 those credits to meet specific course requirements but generally  
10 applies those credits towards degree requirements.

11 (2) To the maximum extent possible, institutions of higher  
12 education shall agree on examination qualifying scores and demonstrated  
13 competencies for the credits or courses under subsection (3) of this  
14 section, with scores equivalent to qualified or well-qualified.  
15 Nothing in this subsection shall prevent an institution of higher  
16 education from adopting policies using higher scores for additional  
17 purposes.

18 (3) Each institution of higher education, in designing its  
19 certificate, technical degree program, two-year academic transfer  
20 program, or freshman and sophomore courses of a baccalaureate program  
21 or baccalaureate degree, must recognize the equivalencies of at least  
22 one year of course credit and maximize the application of the credits  
23 toward lower division general education requirements that can be earned  
24 through successfully demonstrating proficiency on examinations,  
25 including but not limited to advanced placement and international  
26 baccalaureate examinations. The successful completion of the  
27 examination and the award of credit shall be noted on the student's  
28 college transcript.

29 (4) Each institution of higher education must clearly include in  
30 its admissions materials and on its web site the credits or the  
31 institution's list of postsecondary courses that can be fulfilled by  
32 proficiency examinations or demonstrated competencies and the agreed-  
33 upon examination scores and demonstrated competencies that qualify for  
34 postsecondary credit. Each institution must provide the information to  
35 the higher education coordinating board and state board for community  
36 and technical colleges in a form that the superintendent of public

1 instruction is able to distribute to school districts.

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