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SENATE BILL 6029

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Senators Shin, Tom, Hargrove, Hatfield, Harper, Pridemore, Delvin, Haugen, Honeyford, McAuliffe, and Roach

Read first time 01/09/12. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to the opportunity to complete a baccalaureate  
2 degree in three years; and amending RCW 28A.230.130 and 28B.10.118.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.230.130 and 2011 c 77 s 2 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

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

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

18 (a) Help students demonstrate the application of essential academic

1 learning requirements to the world of work, occupation-specific skills,  
2 knowledge of more than one career in a chosen pathway, and  
3 employability and leadership skills; and

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

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

9 (a) Work towards the goal of offering a sufficient number of high  
10 school courses that give students the opportunity to earn the  
11 equivalent of a year's worth of postsecondary credit towards a  
12 certificate, apprenticeship program, technical degree, or associate or  
13 baccalaureate degree. These high school courses are those advanced  
14 courses that have accompanying proficiency exams or demonstrated  
15 competencies that are used to demonstrate postsecondary knowledge and  
16 skills; and

17 (b) Inform students and their families, emphasizing communication  
18 to underrepresented groups, about the program offerings and the  
19 opportunities to take courses that qualify for postsecondary credit  
20 through demonstrated competencies or if the student earns the  
21 qualifying score on the proficiency exam. This information shall  
22 encourage students to use the twelfth grade as the launch year for an  
23 advance start on their career and postsecondary education.

24 (4) Within existing resources, all public high schools in the state  
25 must inform students and their families about opportunities to complete  
26 a baccalaureate degree program in three years.

27 (5) A middle school that receives approval from the office of the  
28 superintendent of public instruction to provide a career and technical  
29 program in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics directly to  
30 students shall receive funding at the same rate as a high school  
31 operating a similar program. Additionally, a middle school that  
32 provides a hands-on experience in science, technology, engineering, or  
33 mathematics with an integrated curriculum of academic content and  
34 career and technical education, and includes a career and technical  
35 education exploratory component shall also qualify for the career and  
36 technical education funding.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.10.118 and 2011 c 108 s 2 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       (1) State universities, regional universities, and The Evergreen  
4 State College may develop accelerated baccalaureate degree programs  
5 that will allow academically qualified students to obtain a  
6 baccalaureate degree in three years without attending summer classes or  
7 enrolling in more than a full-time class load during the regular  
8 academic year. The programs must allow academically qualified students  
9 to begin coursework within their academic field during their first term  
10 or semester of enrollment.

11       (2) The state universities, regional universities, and The  
12 Evergreen State College shall report on their plans for the accelerated  
13 baccalaureate degree programs to the higher education coordinating  
14 board or its successor agency for approval by July 1, 2012.

15       (3) By July 1, 2012, each institution of higher education must  
16 clearly include in its admissions materials and on its web site  
17 accelerated baccalaureate degree programs as well as additional  
18 opportunities to complete a baccalaureate degree program in three  
19 years. By August 1, 2012, each institution must provide this  
20 information to the higher education coordinating board or its successor  
21 agency in a form that the superintendent of public instruction is able  
22 to distribute to school districts.

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