
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2336

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By House Higher Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Zeiger, Seaquist, Haler, Pollet, Manweller, Riccelli, Freeman, Fagan, Magendanz, Morrell, Orwall, Tharinger, and Smith)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/14.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing transparency in higher education by
2 requiring certain departmental budget detail to be available online;
3 adding a new section to chapter 28B.10 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that transparency in
6 higher education budgeting is essential to the maintenance of public
7 trust in the higher education system. Such transparency is not only an
8 appropriate check on future higher education cost increases, it should
9 also counteract any perception that public institutions are not
10 adequately accountable for student and taxpayer dollars. Therefore, to
11 ensure general accessibility to meaningful budget information and to
12 improve public confidence in the system, the legislature intends to
13 require that departmental budgets of institutions of higher education
14 be posted on the education data center's data dashboard.

15 The legislature finds that placing the responsibility for posting
16 departmental budgets of institutions of higher education on the
17 education data center takes advantage of the independence, expertise,
18 and technology base within the education data center. The legislature

1 intends that the education data center use information that is already
2 public, so as to minimize the costs to the education data center.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 The education data center established in RCW 43.41.400 shall post
6 on the education data center's data dashboard established under RCW
7 28B.77.090 the department-level budgets, including budget planning and
8 expenditures of institutions of higher education. For institutions of
9 higher education without a department structure, the education data
10 center shall post comparable budget information. The education data
11 center shall post department-level budget plans and budget expenditures
12 to the data dashboard within sixty days of an institution of higher
13 education's adoption of its annual fiscal budget plan and completion of
14 its fiscal year budget. The education data center is responsible for
15 obtaining the budget and spending data from each institution of higher
16 education, and for developing the format used to display the budget
17 information.

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