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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2651**

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**State of Washington**

**63rd Legislature**

**2014 Regular Session**

**By** House Higher Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Hansen, Haler, Zeiger, Magendanz, and Pollet)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/14.

1       AN ACT Relating to creating a higher education transparency web  
2 site; amending RCW 43.41.400; and creating a new section.

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

4       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.**   (1) The legislature recognizes that the  
5 burden of higher education costs at public institutions of higher  
6 education has shifted significantly from the state to students since  
7 2008, due to the decline in the proportion of costs supported by state  
8 funding compared to tuition.

9       (2) The legislature further recognizes that students and the public  
10 would benefit from access to information on higher education revenues  
11 and expenditures and that this information would provide greater  
12 transparency in the higher education system.

13       (3) The legislature intends to establish a means for providing  
14 easily accessible information on revenues and expenditures of the  
15 state's public institutions of higher education to students and the  
16 public through a web site maintained by a state agency and with links  
17 to this web site prominently displayed on the web site of each public  
18 institution of higher education.

1           **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.41.400 and 2012 c 229 s 585 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3           (1) An education data center shall be established in the office of  
4 financial management. The education data center shall jointly, with  
5 the legislative evaluation and accountability program committee,  
6 conduct collaborative analyses of early learning, K-12, and higher  
7 education programs and education issues across the P-20 system, which  
8 includes the department of early learning, the superintendent of public  
9 instruction, the professional educator standards board, the state board  
10 of education, the state board for community and technical colleges, the  
11 workforce training and education coordinating board, the student  
12 achievement council, public and private nonprofit four-year  
13 institutions of higher education, and the employment security  
14 department. The education data center shall conduct collaborative  
15 analyses under this section with the legislative evaluation and  
16 accountability program committee and provide data electronically to the  
17 legislative evaluation and accountability program committee, to the  
18 extent permitted by state and federal confidentiality requirements.  
19 The education data center shall be considered an authorized  
20 representative of the state educational agencies in this section under  
21 applicable federal and state statutes for purposes of accessing and  
22 compiling student record data for research purposes.

23           (2) The education data center shall:

24           (a) In consultation with the legislative evaluation and  
25 accountability program committee and the agencies and organizations  
26 participating in the education data center, identify the critical  
27 research and policy questions that are intended to be addressed by the  
28 education data center and the data needed to address the questions;

29           (b) Coordinate with other state education agencies to compile and  
30 analyze education data, including data on student demographics that is  
31 disaggregated by distinct ethnic categories within racial subgroups,  
32 and complete P-20 research projects;

33           (c) Collaborate with the legislative evaluation and accountability  
34 program committee and the education and fiscal committees of the  
35 legislature in identifying the data to be compiled and analyzed to  
36 ensure that legislative interests are served;

37           (d) Annually provide to the K-12 data governance group a list of  
38 data elements and data quality improvements that are necessary to

1 answer the research and policy questions identified by the education  
2 data center and have been identified by the legislative committees in  
3 (c) of this subsection. Within three months of receiving the list, the  
4 K-12 data governance group shall develop and transmit to the education  
5 data center a feasibility analysis of obtaining or improving the data,  
6 including the steps required, estimated time frame, and the financial  
7 and other resources that would be required. Based on the analysis, the  
8 education data center shall submit, if necessary, a recommendation to  
9 the legislature regarding any statutory changes or resources that would  
10 be needed to collect or improve the data;

11 (e) Monitor and evaluate the education data collection systems of  
12 the organizations and agencies represented in the education data center  
13 ensuring that data systems are flexible, able to adapt to evolving  
14 needs for information, and to the extent feasible and necessary,  
15 include data that are needed to conduct the analyses and provide  
16 answers to the research and policy questions identified in (a) of this  
17 subsection;

18 (f) Track enrollment and outcomes through the public centralized  
19 higher education enrollment system;

20 (g) Assist other state educational agencies' collaborative efforts  
21 to develop a long-range enrollment plan for higher education including  
22 estimates to meet demographic and workforce needs;

23 (h) Provide research that focuses on student transitions within and  
24 among the early learning, K-12, and higher education sectors in the P-  
25 20 system; and

26 (i) Make recommendations to the legislature as necessary to help  
27 ensure the goals and objectives of this section and RCW 28A.655.210 and  
28 28A.300.507 are met.

29 (3) The department of early learning, superintendent of public  
30 instruction, professional educator standards board, state board of  
31 education, state board for community and technical colleges, workforce  
32 training and education coordinating board, student achievement council,  
33 public four-year institutions of higher education, and employment  
34 security department shall work with the education data center to  
35 develop data-sharing and research agreements, consistent with  
36 applicable security and confidentiality requirements, to facilitate the  
37 work of the center. Private, nonprofit institutions of higher  
38 education that provide programs of education beyond the high school

1 level leading at least to the baccalaureate degree and are accredited  
2 by the Northwest association of schools and colleges or their peer  
3 accreditation bodies may also develop data-sharing and research  
4 agreements with the education data center, consistent with applicable  
5 security and confidentiality requirements. The education data center  
6 shall make data from collaborative analyses available to the education  
7 agencies and institutions that contribute data to the education data  
8 center to the extent allowed by federal and state security and  
9 confidentiality requirements applicable to the data of each  
10 contributing agency or institution.

11 (4)(a) By January 1, 2015, the education data center shall include  
12 easily accessible information on revenues and expenditures for each  
13 institution of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016 on the  
14 higher education dashboard established in RCW 28B.77.090.

15 (b) In maintaining revenue and expenditure information, the  
16 education data center shall:

17 (i) Ensure the web site is easily accessed by students and the  
18 public;

19 (ii) Ensure data is collected and displayed in accordance with laws  
20 relating to confidentiality and public records in chapter 42.56 RCW;

21 (iii) Wherever possible, use data from existing data sources  
22 including the higher education revenue and expenditure data of the  
23 legislative evaluation and accountability program committee for the  
24 purposes of RCW 44.48.150, data submitted to the office of financial  
25 management for budget and accounting purposes, and data collected by  
26 the state board for community and technical colleges and the  
27 institutions of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016;

28 (iv) Include historical data to allow year-to-year comparisons;

29 (v) Analyze and display the data in order to communicate the  
30 relative size of revenues and expenditures for each institution of  
31 higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016 in an easily accessible  
32 and understandable format;

33 (vi) Provide basic enrollment information for each institution of  
34 higher education for context; and

35 (vii) Update the web site each year.

36 (c) Each institution of higher education as defined in RCW  
37 28B.10.016 and the state board for community and technical colleges, to  
38 the extent possible and subject to laws relating to confidentiality,

1 using existing data sources and system applications, shall prominently  
2 display on their institutional web sites a link to the education data  
3 center's data dashboard.  
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