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HOUSE BILL 2651

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State of Washington                      63rd Legislature                      2014 Regular Session

By Representatives Hansen, Haler, Zeiger, Magendanz, and Pollet

Read first time 01/23/14. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to creating a higher education transparency web  
2 site; adding a new section to chapter 28B.77 RCW; and creating a new  
3 section.

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

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

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

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

1           NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.77 RCW  
2 to read as follows:

3           (1) By January 1, 2015, the council shall create a higher education  
4 transparency web site as a means for providing easily accessible  
5 information on revenues and expenditures for each institution of higher  
6 education.

7           (2) In developing and maintaining the higher education transparency  
8 web site the council shall:

9           (a) Ensure the web site is easily accessed by students and the  
10 public;

11           (b) Ensure data is collected and displayed in accordance with laws  
12 relating to confidentiality and public records in chapter 42.56 RCW;

13           (c) Wherever possible, use data from existing data sources  
14 including the higher education revenue and expenditure data of the  
15 legislative evaluation and accountability program committee, data  
16 submitted to the office of financial management, and data collected by  
17 the state board for community and technical colleges and the  
18 institutions of higher education;

19           (d) Include historical data to allow year-to-year comparisons;

20           (e) Analyze and display the data in order to communicate the  
21 relative size of revenues and expenditures for each institution of  
22 higher education in an easily accessible and understandable format;

23           (f) Provide basic enrollment and program information for each  
24 institution of higher education for context;

25           (g) Provide a link to any audit reports available to the public or  
26 issued by the office of the state auditor for each institution of  
27 higher education; and

28           (h) Update the web site each year.

29           (3)(a) Unless otherwise directed by the council by rule, the major  
30 revenue categories must include the following:

31           (i) Athletics;

32           (ii) Investment income;

33           (iii) State funding for operations and capital expenditures;

34           (iv) Tuition;

35           (v) Grants, contracts;

36           (vi) Gifts; and

37           (vii) For the University of Washington, patient services.

1 (b) Unless otherwise directed by the council by rule, the major  
2 expenditure categories shall include the following:

- 3 (i) Instruction;
- 4 (ii) Administration;
- 5 (iii) Research;
- 6 (iv) Health systems;
- 7 (v) Student services; and
- 8 (vi) Athletics.

9 (4) Each institution of higher education and the state board for  
10 community and technical colleges, to the extent possible and subject to  
11 laws relating to confidentiality, using existing data sources and  
12 system applications, shall:

13 (a) Provide the council with revenue and expenditure information  
14 including information provided to the office of financial management  
15 for budget and accounting purposes, and the legislative evaluation and  
16 accountability program committee for the purposes of RCW 44.48.150;

17 (b) Provide the information in the format and manner required by  
18 the council; and

19 (c) Prominently display on their institutional web sites a link to  
20 council's higher education transparency web site for their institution,  
21 using the same title.

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