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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5544**

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**State of Washington**

**63rd Legislature**

**2013 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Higher Education (originally sponsored by Senators Ranker, Litzow, Fain, Hasegawa, Schlicher, Kline, Kohl-Welles, McAuliffe, and Shin)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/13.

1       AN ACT Relating to an online higher education transfer and student  
2       advising system; and adding a new section to chapter 28B.77 RCW.

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

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

6       (1) By September 1, 2014, the council, in conjunction with the  
7       state board for community and technical colleges, the workforce  
8       training and education coordinating board, the four-year institutions  
9       of higher education, nonprofit institutions of higher education, and  
10      for-profit institutions of higher education shall establish and  
11      maintain a statewide online transfer and student advising system that  
12      integrates information related to programs, advising, registration,  
13      admissions, and transfer. The system must be easily accessible to all  
14      Washington high school students and their parents or guardians, higher  
15      education students, faculty, counselors, advisors, and other  
16      professional staff. The purpose of the system is to:

17      (a) Assist students to access higher education program information  
18      easily and speed completion of their education programs by clarifying

1 and simplifying the process for researching programs, resources, and  
2 transferability of courses; and

3 (b) Improve efficiency of service delivery to students for  
4 institutions of higher education.

5 (2) The online transfer and student advising system must:

6 (a) Integrate with web sites maintained by the council, the state  
7 board for community and technical colleges, the workforce training and  
8 education coordinating board, institutions of higher education, and  
9 other web sites to provide an inventory of postsecondary degrees and  
10 certificates available in the state, including online options; and  
11 outline educational requirements for various occupations, including  
12 labor market information;

13 (b) Specify educational requirements, admissions requirements, and  
14 prerequisites for all postsecondary programs;

15 (c) Specify course options or pathways that meet the requirements  
16 of a degree or certificate;

17 (d) Provide registration and admissions information for  
18 institutions of higher education;

19 (e)(i) Provide a method for students to assess which courses and  
20 programs are transferrable from one institution of higher education to  
21 another, and which programs will transfer with credit towards  
22 completion of their chosen degree or certificate; and

23 (ii) Make specific accommodations to address the unique transfer  
24 opportunities for students transferring both to and from The Evergreen  
25 State College, which may include providing transfer policy information  
26 specific to the college;

27 (f) Provide information regarding student financial aid and other  
28 services that assist students to research, access, and complete degrees  
29 and certificates; and

30 (g) Build on and use data gathered from existing institutional data  
31 systems, such as the degree audit reporting system and institutional  
32 web sites, to minimize new technical requirements, costs, and staffing  
33 impacts at institutions of higher education.

34 (3) The council, the state board for community and technical  
35 colleges, the workforce training and education coordinating board, the  
36 four-year institutions of higher education, nonprofit institutions of  
37 higher education, and for-profit institutions of higher education shall  
38 sign a memorandum of understanding that specifies roles and

1 responsibilities regarding the design, implementation, promotion,  
2 development, maintenance, and analysis of the effectiveness of the  
3 online transfer and student advising system.

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