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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6142**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Senators Lias, Randall, Dhingra, Hasegawa, Mullet, Nguyen, Stanford, Carlyle, and Wilson, C.; by request of Lieutenant Governor)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the Washington common application;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 28B.10 RCW; and creating a new  
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that while  
6 institutions of higher education generally intend to design  
7 admissions processes to be as equitable as possible, certain  
8 administrative barriers can create inequities with disproportionate  
9 negative impacts on underrepresented student populations. One such  
10 barrier includes the time and financial resources required for  
11 students to apply to multiple institutions each with their own unique  
12 application processes. Despite significant commonality among  
13 applications, students applying to multiple institutions must answer  
14 duplicative or similar questions from one application to the next,  
15 alter similar responses to accommodate different word count  
16 requirements, navigate separate fee waiver processes, and more. The  
17 time, money, and particular expertise required to successfully  
18 complete these applications creates an unnecessary administrative  
19 barrier that especially impacts students with competing obligations,  
20 such as job and familial responsibilities, as well as students who  
21 may lack access to college admissions resources. Research has shown

1 that when institutions adopt a common application, they improve  
2 access for potential students, resulting in a larger and more diverse  
3 applicant pool. Given these facts, the legislature intends to direct  
4 institutions of higher education adopt a common application so that  
5 students may apply to all six public four-year institutions of higher  
6 education in Washington using the same application.

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

9 (1) Subject to amounts appropriated for this specific purpose,  
10 the public four-year institutions of higher education shall all  
11 enroll in the same preexisting online common application for use in  
12 admitting students by the 2022-23 academic year. The preexisting  
13 online common application adopted shall meet the following  
14 requirements:

15 (a) Includes more than five hundred institutional participants;  
16 and

17 (b) Has an established application fee waiver process for low-  
18 income students.

19 (2) Nothing in this section precludes a public institution of  
20 higher education from adopting a second preexisting online common  
21 application that meets the following requirements:

22 (a) Includes more than one hundred institutional participants;  
23 and

24 (b) Has an established application fee waiver process for low-  
25 income students.

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