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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5043**

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**State of Washington**

**61st Legislature**

**2009 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Senators Kilmer, Kauffman, Shin, Rockefeller, Kastama, Kohl-Welles, Jarrett, Tom, and McAuliffe)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/09.

1        AN ACT Relating to creating a higher education coordination board  
2 work group to develop a single, coordinated student access portal; and  
3 creating a new section.

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

5        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    (1) Within existing funds, the higher  
6 education coordinating board shall convene a work group to develop a  
7 plan to create a single, coordinated, collaboratively supported,  
8 one-stop college information web-based portal for students and families  
9 planning, preparing, and applying for, as well as those attending,  
10 postsecondary education. The purpose of the portal is to provide  
11 comprehensive information and applications regarding financial,  
12 academic, and career planning, admissions, scholarships, financial aid,  
13 as well as any other information and services identified by the work  
14 group that would encourage or aid students contemplating their  
15 postsecondary education goals.

16        (2) The work group shall consist of representatives from the higher  
17 education coordinating board, the state board for community and  
18 technical colleges, the council of presidents, the workforce training  
19 and education coordinating board, the independent colleges of

1 Washington, the office of the superintendent of public instruction,  
2 representatives of the public, private, and private vocational colleges  
3 in Washington, and others as may be needed.

4 (3) The work group shall:

5 (a) Investigate similar ongoing efforts in other states including  
6 what information and services are typically offered, what agency takes  
7 the lead in creating and maintaining the portal, what planning stages  
8 and budgets are associated with portals, how portals are marketed to  
9 maximize usefulness, and whether the states' efforts are increasing  
10 postsecondary participation;

11 (b) Focus on a portal that is student-centered and does not  
12 presuppose a sophisticated understanding of postsecondary education;

13 (c) Identify the resources necessary to build and maintain the  
14 portal;

15 (d) Develop a plan that builds upon existing infrastructure  
16 whenever possible; and

17 (e) Identify the metrics that can be used to gauge success.

18 (4) The final report of the work group shall:

19 (a) Recommend a process and timeline for the creation of the  
20 portal;

21 (b) Identify costs and savings to students, families, and the  
22 state;

23 (c) Identify potential issues and roadblocks anticipated in the  
24 creation and maintenance of the portal; and

25 (d) Propose enabling legislative and administrative solutions.

26 (5) The board shall report to the legislature by December 1, 2009.

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