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SENATE BILL 5086

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Litzow, McAuliffe, and Kohl-Welles; by request of Office of Financial Management

Read first time 01/13/15. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to dual credit opportunities provided by  
2 Washington state's public institutions of higher education; and  
3 amending RCW 28A.600.290 and 28A.600.310.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.600.290 and 2012 c 229 s 801 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The superintendent of public instruction, the state board for  
8 community and technical colleges, the student achievement council,  
9 and the public baccalaureate institutions shall jointly develop and  
10 each adopt rules governing the college in the high school program.  
11 The association of Washington school principals shall be consulted  
12 during the rules development. (~~The rules shall be written to~~  
13 ~~encourage the maximum use of the program and may not narrow or limit~~  
14 ~~the enrollment options.~~) Rules for the program shall be updated by  
15 September 1, 2015. The update shall address course requirements so  
16 that courses offered through the college in the high school program  
17 meet the standards for transferable college credit for the purposes  
18 of meeting general education requirements or degree requirements at  
19 institutions of higher education.

20 (2) College in the high school programs shall each be governed by  
21 a local contract between the district and the institution of higher

1 education, in compliance with the ~~((guidelines))~~ rules adopted ~~((by~~  
2 ~~the superintendent of public instruction, the state board for~~  
3 ~~community and technical colleges, and the public baccalaureate~~  
4 ~~institutions))~~ under subsection (1) of this section.

5 (3) The college in the high school program must include the  
6 provisions in this subsection.

7 (a) The high school and institution of higher education together  
8 shall define the criteria for student eligibility. The institution of  
9 higher education may charge tuition fees ~~((to))~~ per participating  
10 student~~((s))~~ on a per credit basis as provided in subsection (5) of  
11 this section. However if specific funding is provided in the omnibus  
12 appropriations act for subsection (5)(b) of this section, the maximum  
13 per credit fee charged to any participating student may not exceed  
14 the amount of the state subsidy per credit.

15 (b) School districts shall report no student for more than one  
16 full-time equivalent including college in the high school courses.

17 (c) The funds received by the institution of higher education may  
18 not be deemed tuition or operating fees and may be retained by the  
19 institution of higher education.

20 (d) Enrollment information on persons registered under this  
21 section must be maintained by the institution of higher education  
22 separately from other enrollment information and may not be included  
23 in official enrollment reports, nor may such persons be considered in  
24 any enrollment statistics that would affect higher education  
25 budgetary determinations.

26 (e) A school district must grant high school credit to a student  
27 enrolled in a program course if the student successfully completes  
28 the course. ~~((If no comparable course is offered by the school~~  
29 ~~district, the school district superintendent shall determine how many~~  
30 ~~credits to award for the course.))~~ The determination of the number of  
31 high school credits shall be made in writing before the student  
32 enrolls in the course. The credits shall be applied toward graduation  
33 requirements and subject area requirements. Evidence of successful  
34 completion of each program course shall be included in the student's  
35 secondary school records and transcript.

36 (f) ~~((An))~~ The participating institution of higher education must  
37 grant college credit to a student enrolled in a program course if the  
38 student successfully completes the course. The college credit shall  
39 be applied toward general education requirements or ~~((major))~~ degree  
40 requirements. ~~((If no comparable course is offered by the college,~~

1 ~~the institution of higher education at which the teacher of the~~  
2 ~~program course is employed shall determine how many credits to award~~  
3 ~~for the course and whether the course fulfills general education or~~  
4 ~~major requirements.)) Evidence of successful completion of each~~  
5 program course must be included in the student's college transcript.

6 (g) Eleventh and twelfth grade students or students who have not  
7 yet received a high school diploma or its equivalent and are eligible  
8 to be in the eleventh or twelfth grades may participate in the  
9 college in the high school program.

10 (h) Participating school districts must provide general  
11 information about the college in the high school program to all  
12 students in grades ten, eleven, and twelve and to the parents and  
13 guardians of those students.

14 (i) Full-time and part-time faculty at institutions of higher  
15 education, including adjunct faculty, are eligible to teach program  
16 courses.

17 (4) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this  
18 section.

19 (a) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning in RCW  
20 28B.10.016 and also includes a public tribal college located in  
21 Washington and accredited by the Northwest commission on colleges and  
22 universities or another accrediting association recognized by the  
23 United States department of education.

24 (b) "Program course" means a college course offered in a high  
25 school under the college in the high school program by an institution  
26 of higher education. To be considered a "program course" a comparable  
27 course must be offered for college credit to matriculated students at  
28 the institution and the course must satisfy a general education  
29 requirement or degree requirement.

30 (5)(a) A district or a student may pay the tuition fees charged  
31 under subsection (3) of this section.

32 (b)(i) Subject to appropriation, the state must provide a per  
33 credit subsidy for eligible students in participating districts, with  
34 the per credit subsidy and maximum annual number of subsidized  
35 credits as specified in the omnibus appropriations act.

36 (ii) An eligible student is one enrolled in the course by  
37 September 1st of the school year and is eligible for free or reduced-  
38 price lunches.

39 (iii) Districts must annually apply to the office of the  
40 superintendent of public instruction by July 1st of each year to

1 participate in the subsidy program and report the preliminary  
2 estimate of eligible students to receive the subsidy by projected  
3 credit hours.

4 (iv) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
5 notify districts by September 1st of each school year if the  
6 district's students will receive the subsidy. If more districts apply  
7 than funding is available, the office of the superintendent of public  
8 instruction shall prioritize the district applications. The  
9 superintendent shall develop factors to determine priority including,  
10 but not limited to, the number dual credit opportunities available  
11 for low-income students in the districts.

12 (v) Districts shall remit any subsidies on behalf of the students  
13 to the participating institution of higher education and those  
14 students shall not be required to pay for the subsidized credits.

15 (vi) Districts are encouraged to pay the costs for students not  
16 eligible for the subsidy.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.600.310 and 2012 c 229 s 702 are each amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 (1) Eleventh and twelfth grade students or students who have not  
20 yet received the credits required for the award of a high school  
21 diploma and are eligible to be in the eleventh or twelfth grades may  
22 apply to a participating institution of higher education to enroll in  
23 courses or programs offered by the institution of higher education.  
24 The course sections and programs must be open for registration to  
25 matriculated students at the participating institution of higher  
26 education. This section does not apply to courses offered at high  
27 schools consisting solely of high school students. A student  
28 receiving home-based instruction enrolling in a public high school  
29 for the sole purpose of participating in courses or programs offered  
30 by institutions of higher education shall not be counted by the  
31 school district in any required state or federal accountability  
32 reporting if the student's parents or guardians filed a declaration  
33 of intent to provide home-based instruction and the student received  
34 home-based instruction during the school year before the school year  
35 in which the student intends to participate in courses or programs  
36 offered by the institution of higher education. Students receiving  
37 home-based instruction under chapter 28A.200 RCW and students  
38 attending private schools approved under chapter 28A.195 RCW shall  
39 not be required to meet the student learning goals, obtain a

1 certificate of academic achievement or a certificate of individual  
2 achievement to graduate from high school, or to master the essential  
3 academic learning requirements. However, students are eligible to  
4 enroll in courses or programs in participating universities only if  
5 the board of directors of the student's school district has decided  
6 to participate in the program. Participating institutions of higher  
7 education, in consultation with school districts, may establish  
8 admission standards for these students. If the institution of higher  
9 education accepts a secondary school pupil for enrollment under this  
10 section, the institution of higher education shall send written  
11 notice to the pupil and the pupil's school district within ten days  
12 of acceptance. The notice shall indicate the course and hours of  
13 enrollment for that pupil.

14 (2)(a) In lieu of tuition and fees, as defined in RCW 28B.15.020  
15 and 28B.15.041:

16 (i) Running start students shall pay to the community or  
17 technical college all other mandatory fees as established by each  
18 community or technical college and, in addition, the state board for  
19 community and technical colleges may authorize a fee of up to ten  
20 percent of tuition and fees as defined in RCW 28B.15.020 and  
21 28B.15.041; and

22 (ii) All other institutions of higher education operating a  
23 running start program may charge running start students a fee of up  
24 to ten percent of tuition and fees as defined in RCW 28B.15.020 and  
25 28B.15.041 in addition to technology fees.

26 (b) The fees charged under this subsection (2) shall be prorated  
27 based on credit load.

28 (3)(a) The institutions of higher education must make available  
29 fee waivers for low-income running start students. Each institution  
30 must establish a written policy for the determination of low-income  
31 students before offering the fee waiver. A student shall be  
32 considered low income and eligible for a fee waiver upon proof that  
33 the student is currently qualified to receive free or reduced-price  
34 lunch. Acceptable documentation of low-income status may also  
35 include, but is not limited to, documentation that a student has been  
36 deemed eligible for free or reduced-price lunches in the last five  
37 years, or other criteria established in the institution's policy.

38 (b) Institutions of higher education, in collaboration with  
39 relevant student associations, shall aim to have students who can  
40 benefit from fee waivers take advantage of these waivers.

1 Institutions shall make every effort to communicate to students and  
2 their families the benefits of the waivers and provide assistance to  
3 students and their families on how to apply. Information about  
4 waivers shall, to the greatest extent possible, be incorporated into  
5 financial aid counseling, admission information, and individual  
6 billing statements. Institutions also shall, to the greatest extent  
7 possible, use all means of communication, including but not limited  
8 to web sites, online catalogues, admission and registration forms,  
9 mass e-mail messaging, social media, and outside marketing to ensure  
10 that information about waivers is visible, compelling, and reaches  
11 the maximum number of students and families that can benefit.

12 (4) The pupil's school district shall transmit to the institution  
13 of higher education an amount per each full-time equivalent college  
14 student at statewide uniform rates for vocational and nonvocational  
15 students. The superintendent of public instruction shall separately  
16 calculate and allocate moneys appropriated for basic education under  
17 RCW 28A.150.260 to school districts for purposes of making such  
18 payments and for granting school districts seven percent thereof to  
19 offset program related costs. The calculations and allocations shall  
20 be based upon the estimated statewide annual average per full-time  
21 equivalent high school student allocations under RCW 28A.150.260,  
22 excluding small high school enhancements, and applicable rules  
23 adopted under chapter 34.05 RCW. The superintendent of public  
24 instruction, participating institutions of higher education, and the  
25 state board for community and technical colleges shall consult on the  
26 calculation and distribution of the funds. The funds received by the  
27 institution of higher education from the school district shall not be  
28 deemed tuition or operating fees and may be retained by the  
29 institution of higher education. A student enrolled under this  
30 subsection shall be counted for the purpose of meeting enrollment  
31 targets in accordance with terms and conditions specified in the  
32 omnibus appropriations act.

33 ~~((5) The state board for community and technical colleges, in~~  
34 ~~collaboration with the other institutions of higher education that~~  
35 ~~participate in the running start program and the office of the~~  
36 ~~superintendent of public instruction, shall identify, assess, and~~  
37 ~~report on alternatives for providing ongoing and adequate financial~~  
38 ~~support for the program. Such alternatives shall include but are not~~  
39 ~~limited to student tuition, increased support from local school~~  
40 ~~districts, and reallocation of existing state financial support among~~

1 ~~the community and technical college system to account for~~  
2 ~~differential running start enrollment levels and impacts. The state~~  
3 ~~board for community and technical colleges shall report the~~  
4 ~~assessment of alternatives to the governor and to the appropriate~~  
5 ~~fiscal and policy committees of the legislature by September 1,~~  
6 ~~2010.) )~~

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