
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5713

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senate Higher Education (originally sponsored by Senators Kohl-Welles, Bailey, Ranker, Hasegawa, Frockt, and Murray)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/13.

1 AN ACT Relating to self-supporting, fee-based programs at four-year
2 institutions of higher education; and adding a new section to chapter
3 28B.15 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.15 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) When a decision is being considered to change an existing
8 degree program that is supported by state funding to a program that is
9 self-supporting and fee-based, the state universities, regional
10 universities, and The Evergreen State College shall:

11 (a) Notify enrolled undergraduate or graduate student government
12 associations at least six months before implementation with an estimate
13 of tuition and fees;

14 (b) Publicly notify prospective students, including notification in
15 admissions offers with an estimate of tuition and fees; and

16 (c) Allow students currently enrolled in the program to continue in
17 the state-supported program structure for a consecutive amount of time
18 no greater than four years in length.

1 (2) The state universities, regional universities, and The
2 Evergreen State College shall each establish or designate a committee
3 composed of administrators, faculty, and students to create criteria
4 upon which to evaluate, before a decision is made, the proposed shift
5 of a degree program from a state-supported degree program to a self-
6 supporting funding basis. Where possible, an existing budget or
7 advisory committee shall be designated in lieu of establishing a new
8 committee.

9 (3) When establishing evaluation criteria, the committee shall
10 consider including the following:

11 (a) Financial health and sustainability of the program;

12 (b) If moving the program to a self-sustaining funding basis alters
13 the availability of student financial aid;

14 (c) The audience for the program, the format of the program, and
15 the institutional priority for state funding of the program;

16 (d) Demographics of students served and graduates practicing in
17 typical fields of study; and

18 (e) Alternatives to shifting to a self-sustaining funding basis,
19 including raising tuition within the state-funded context or program
20 elimination.

21 (4) The committee that creates the criteria for moving a degree
22 from state-supported to self-supporting, fee-based program may also
23 establish a process to periodically evaluate programs that have shifted
24 from a state-supported program to a fee-based funding model for
25 alignment with the criteria established.

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