

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

HOUSE BILL 1736

Chapter 218, Laws of 2013

63rd Legislature
2013 Regular Session

HIGHER EDUCATION OPERATING EFFICIENCIES

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/28/13

Passed by the House April 22, 2013
Yeas 92 Nays 3

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate April 17, 2013
Yeas 47 Nays 0

BRAD OWEN

President of the Senate

Approved May 10, 2013, 11:33 a.m.

JAY INSLEE

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **HOUSE BILL 1736** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BARBARA BAKER

Chief Clerk

FILED

May 10, 2013

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

HOUSE BILL 1736

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2013 Regular Session

State of Washington **63rd Legislature** **2013 Regular Session**

By Representatives Zeiger, Seaquist, Haler, Pollet, Ryu, Sawyer, Bergquist, Magendanz, and Farrell

Read first time 02/06/13. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to higher education operating efficiencies;
2 amending RCW 28B.85.020; adding a new section to chapter 28B.10 RCW;
3 adding a new section to chapter 28B.15 RCW; creating a new section; and
4 providing an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) In order to enhance the efficiency and
7 effectiveness of operations of institutions of higher education, the
8 office of financial management shall work with the department of
9 enterprise services, the department of transportation, the department
10 of commerce, institutions of higher education, and others as necessary
11 to comprehensively review reporting requirements related to the
12 provisions in RCW 19.27A.020, 19.27A.150, 70.235.020, 39.35D.020,
13 43.19.565, 43.41.130, 47.01.440, 70.94.151, 70.94.161, 70.94.527,
14 70.120A.010, 70.120A.050, 70.235.030, 70.235.040, 70.235.050,
15 70.235.060, 70.235.070, 80.80.030, 80.80.040, and 80.80.080. By
16 September 1, 2014, the office of financial management shall report to
17 the governor and the higher education committees of the legislature.
18 The report shall include recommendations for coordinating and

1 streamlining reporting, and promoting the most efficient use of state
2 resources at institutions of higher education.

3 (2) This section expires August 1, 2015.

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

6 (1) Institutions of higher education and state higher education
7 agencies may use or accept secure electronic signatures for any human
8 resource, benefits, or payroll processes that require a signature.
9 Such signatures are valid and enforceable.

10 (2) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
11 section.

12 (a) "Electronic signature" means an electronic sound, symbol, or
13 process, attached to, or logically associated with, a contract or other
14 record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the
15 record.

16 (b) "Secure electronic signature" means an electronic signature
17 that:

18 (i) Is unique to the person making the signature;

19 (ii) Uses a technology or process to make the signature that is
20 under the sole control of the person making the signature;

21 (iii) Uses a technology or process that can identify the person
22 using the technology or process; and

23 (iv) Can be linked with an electronic record in such a way that it
24 can be used to determine whether the electronic record has been changed
25 since the electronic signature was incorporated in, attached to, or
26 associated with the electronic record.

27 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.85.020 and 2012 c 229 s 543 are each amended to
28 read as follows:

29 (1) The council:

30 (a) Shall adopt by rule, in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW,
31 minimum standards for degree-granting institutions concerning granting
32 of degrees, quality of education, unfair business practices, financial
33 stability, and other necessary measures to protect citizens of this
34 state against substandard, fraudulent, or deceptive practices. The
35 rules shall require that an institution operating in Washington:

36 (i) Be accredited;

1 (ii) Have applied for accreditation and such application is pending
2 before the accrediting agency;

3 (iii) Have been granted a waiver by the council waiving the
4 requirement of accreditation; or

5 (iv) Have been granted an exemption by the council from the
6 requirements of this subsection (1)(a);

7 (b) May investigate any entity the council reasonably believes to
8 be subject to the jurisdiction of this chapter. In connection with the
9 investigation, the council may administer oaths and affirmations, issue
10 subpoenas and compel attendance, take evidence, and require the
11 production of any books, papers, correspondence, memorandums, or other
12 records which the council deems relevant or material to the
13 investigation. The council, including its staff and any other
14 authorized persons, may conduct site inspections, the cost of which
15 shall be borne by the institution, and examine records of all
16 institutions subject to this chapter;

17 (c) May negotiate and enter into interstate reciprocity agreements
18 with other state or multistate entities if the agreements are
19 consistent with the purposes in this chapter as determined by the
20 council;

21 (d) May enter into agreements with degree-granting institutions of
22 higher education based in this state, that are otherwise exempt under
23 the provisions of subsection (1)(a) of this section, for the purpose of
24 ensuring consistent consumer protection in interstate distance delivery
25 of higher education;

26 (e) Shall develop an interagency agreement with the workforce
27 training and education coordinating board to regulate degree-granting
28 private vocational schools with respect to degree and nondegree
29 programs; and

30 ((+d)) (f) Shall develop and disseminate information to the public
31 about entities that sell or award degrees without requiring appropriate
32 academic achievement at the postsecondary level, including but not
33 limited to, a description of the substandard and potentially fraudulent
34 practices of these entities, and advice about how the public can
35 recognize and avoid the entities. To the extent feasible, the
36 information shall include links to additional resources that may assist
37 the public in identifying specific institutions offering substandard or
38 fraudulent degree programs.

1 (2) Financial disclosures provided to the council by degree-
2 granting private vocational schools are not subject to public
3 disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.15 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) One student advisory committee may be formed at each four-year
7 institution of higher education by that institution's recognized
8 student government organization for the purpose of advising and
9 assisting the administration of that four-year institution of higher
10 education on issues that directly affect students' ability to access
11 and succeed in their educational programs. Issues that the student
12 advisory committee may consider include:

- 13 (a) The institution's annual budget;
- 14 (b) Tuition and fee levels;
- 15 (c) Financial aid policies;
- 16 (d) Long-range budget priorities and allocation planning; and
- 17 (e) Admission and enrollment policies.

18 (2) Members of a student advisory committee may be appointed in a
19 manner that is consistent with policies adopted by the recognized
20 student government organizations at each institution. If there is both
21 an undergraduate and graduate recognized student government
22 organization at one institution, members of the student advisory
23 committee may be appointed in a manner consistent with policies adopted
24 by both organizations.

25 (3) The administration of each four-year institution of higher
26 education must: (a) Make readily available all nonconfidential
27 information, documents, and reports requested by the student advisory
28 committee and that are necessary for the committee to provide informed
29 recommendations; and (b) provide the opportunity to present
30 recommendations to the boards of regents or trustees before final
31 decisions of the administration that relate to the issues described in
32 subsection (1) of this section.

33 (4) A student advisory committee must: (a) Make reasonable efforts
34 to solicit feedback from students regarding the issues described in
35 subsection (1) of this section and matters that are of general interest
36 and impact students; and (b) take reasonable steps to keep students

1 informed of deliberations and actions of the student advisory
2 committee.

Passed by the House April 22, 2013.

Passed by the Senate April 17, 2013.

Approved by the Governor May 10, 2013.

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