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**HOUSE BILL 2155**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Reeves and Slatter

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the Washington credential registry;  
2 and adding a new section to chapter 28C.18 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1)(a) The Washington credential registry is created to provide  
7 users, such as students, workers, employers, educators, and others,  
8 the ability to understand, evaluate, and access essential information  
9 about educational and occupational credentials, such as diplomas,  
10 certificates, digital badges, certifications, licenses,  
11 apprenticeships, military training, and degrees.

12 (b) The board shall develop and administer the Washington  
13 credential registry.

14 (c) The Washington credential registry must be developed based on  
15 the data within career bridge and, to the extent possible, may not  
16 duplicate data collection and aggregation.

17 (d) To develop and administer the Washington credential registry,  
18 the board shall consult with agencies that oversee and certify  
19 credentials to workers and students, such as the student achievement  
20 council, the office of the superintendent of public instruction, the  
21 state board for community and technical colleges, the department of

1 licensing, the department of health, and the professional educator  
2 standards board.

3 (e) The Washington credential registry must include information  
4 about, but is not limited to, the following:

5 (i) Occupational and educational credentials, such as diplomas,  
6 certificates, digital badges, certifications, licenses,  
7 apprenticeships, military training, and degrees;

8 (ii) Providers and owners, if proprietary, of credentials;

9 (iii) Competencies associated with and required for credentials,  
10 such as knowledge, skills, abilities, related experiences, and  
11 mastery levels;

12 (iv) Programs, courses, learning content, and assessments  
13 associated with and required for credentials, including requirements  
14 for entry;

15 (v) Costs of instruction, length of training, physical location,  
16 and online availability;

17 (vi) Process-based and outcomes-based quality and performance  
18 information, including employment and earnings outcomes for  
19 credential holders that can be measured against accepted standards;

20 (vii) Educational and career pathways that show how credentials  
21 can be stacked and transferred;

22 (viii) The recommended, recognized, and accepted transfer value  
23 of credentials from one provider and sector to another, including the  
24 transfer value of credentials earned in the military to civilian  
25 education and occupational opportunities; and

26 (ix) Links to specific occupational and job skills.

27 (f) The Washington credential registry must be a repository of  
28 linked, open data about credentials and may not contain information  
29 about an individual credential holder.

30 (g) The board shall work with state credential oversight agencies  
31 to establish a technical assistance team and set of resources to  
32 support credential providers and owners to publish data to the  
33 Washington credential registry.

34 (h) The Washington credential registry must be publicly  
35 available, searchable, and comparable using open specifications and  
36 linked, interoperable data formats. Such formats must be aligned with  
37 widely recognized and adopted standards and must allow for open  
38 access across state and national borders, sectors, and platforms.  
39 Such information must be human-readable, machine-actionable, current,  
40 accurate, and maintained on each provider's website and on an open

1 national repository accessible to the public. Such requirements may  
2 be met through utilization of the credential transparency description  
3 language specifications.

4 (2) Subject to appropriations, grant funding shall be provided to  
5 support credential pathway transparency on the following initial  
6 topics:

7 (a) Equitable pathways from secondary to postsecondary education,  
8 training, and employment, including populations that have  
9 demonstrated evidence of being underemployed, undereducated, or  
10 underpaid;

11 (b) Education, training, and upskilling pathways for workers in  
12 the child care, early childhood, and prekindergarten sectors;

13 (c) Pathways for corrections-involved individuals to maximize the  
14 likelihood of successful skills and credential attainment and stable,  
15 family-supporting employment with opportunities for advancement;

16 (d) Successful transitions for individuals in the military,  
17 military spouses, and veterans;

18 (e) Creating and piloting skill and competency validation  
19 protocols to ensure that learning is recognized and valued regardless  
20 of where or how learning occurs; and

21 (f) Integration of data from the Washington credential registry  
22 into users' digital and portable learning and employment records.

23 (3) The Washington credential registry must be operational by  
24 July 1, 2025.

25 (4) The board shall report progress on the implementation of the  
26 Washington credential registry, and its value and uses for residents  
27 and employers in the state, to the legislature annually pursuant to  
28 RCW 43.01.036, and provide recommendations for further expansion and  
29 improvements.

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