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**HOUSE BILL 2289**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Leavitt and Gildon

Prefiled 01/03/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to tuition transparency at postsecondary  
2 educational institutions; amending RCW 28B.15.0681; adding new  
3 sections to chapter 28B.15 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that  
6 prospective students must make important decisions about higher  
7 education, and to do so, prospective students and their families need  
8 accurate estimates of actual college costs. Students who might  
9 overestimate costs may not apply to colleges they can afford, and  
10 students who underestimate costs might drop out of college for  
11 financial reasons before attaining a degree.

12 Although colleges and universities provide students with  
13 information about the cost of attending college, having this  
14 information early in the process and having more individualized  
15 information is especially important to low-income students, first-  
16 generation college students, and individuals who do not have regular  
17 access to college and financial aid counselors.

18 Therefore, the legislature intends to increase the usability and  
19 usefulness of cost-related information that institutions provide so  
20 that prospective students and their families have the information

1 they need to make informed choices about pursuing postsecondary  
2 education.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.15  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) Beginning August 1, 2020, institutions of higher education  
6 shall provide predictive cost estimates, in a student's letter of  
7 acceptance, to full-time resident students applying for undergraduate  
8 degree programs for the 2021-22 academic year and for academic years  
9 thereafter.

10 (2) The institutions of higher education may also include, with  
11 the predictive cost estimate, information on where the student can  
12 access financial aid information, including all available student  
13 financial aid programs and information regarding federal tax credits  
14 related to higher education available for students or their families.

15 (3) For purposes of this section, "predictive cost estimate"  
16 means a nonbinding estimate of the total cost to pursue a degree or  
17 certificate at the institution based on credit requirements and the  
18 typical time to completion. For programs that require an application  
19 process, the predictive cost estimate is a nonbinding estimate of the  
20 total cost to complete the program in the student's chosen field of  
21 study based on credit requirements and the typical time of  
22 completion. "Predictive cost estimate" must include projected  
23 increases in tuition and mandatory fees.

24 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.15.0681 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 10 s 4 are each  
25 amended to read as follows:

26 (1) (~~In addition to the requirement in RCW 28B.76.300(4),~~  
27 ~~institutions~~) Institutions of higher education shall disclose to  
28 their undergraduate resident students on the tuition billing  
29 statement, in dollar figures for a full-time equivalent student:

- 30 (a) The full cost of (~~instruction~~) attendance;
- 31 (b) The amount collected from student tuition and fees; and
- 32 (c) The difference between the amounts for the full cost of  
33 instruction and the student tuition and fees.

34 (2) (~~The tuition billing statement shall note that the~~  
35 ~~difference between the cost and tuition under subsection (1)(c) of~~  
36 ~~this section was paid by state tax funds and other moneys.~~

1 ~~(3) Beginning in the 2010-11 academic year, the amount determined~~  
2 ~~in subsection (1)(c) of this section shall be labeled an "opportunity~~  
3 ~~pathway" on the tuition billing statement.~~

4 (4)) Beginning in the 2010-11 academic year, institutions of  
5 higher education shall label financial aid awarded to resident  
6 undergraduate students as an "opportunity pathway" on the tuition  
7 billing statement or financial aid award notification. Aid granted to  
8 students outside of the financial aid package provided through the  
9 institution of higher education and loans provided by the federal  
10 government are not subject to the labeling provisions in this  
11 subsection. All other aid from all sources including federal, state,  
12 and local governments, local communities, nonprofit and for-profit  
13 organizations, and institutions of higher education must be included.  
14 The disclosure requirements specified in this section do not change  
15 the source, award amount, student eligibility, or student obligations  
16 associated with each award. Institutions of higher education retain  
17 the ability to customize their tuition billing statements to inform  
18 students of the assistance source, amount, and type so long as  
19 provisions of this section are also fulfilled.

20 ((5)) (3) Institutions of higher education shall provide the  
21 following information to all undergraduate resident students either  
22 on the tuition billing statement or via a link to a web site  
23 detailing the following information:

24 (a) The sources of all institutional revenue received during the  
25 prior academic or fiscal year, including but not limited to state,  
26 federal, local, and private sources;

27 (b) The uses of tuition revenue collected during the prior  
28 academic or fiscal year by program category as determined by the  
29 office of financial management; and

30 (c) The accountability and performance data under RCW  
31 ((28B.76.270)) 28B.77.090.

32 ((6)) (4) The tuition billing statement disclosures shall be in  
33 twelve-point type and boldface type where appropriate.

34 ((7)) (5) All tuition billing statements or financial aid award  
35 notifications at institutions of higher education must notify  
36 resident undergraduate students of federal tax credits related to  
37 higher education for which they may be eligible.

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

1 (1) (a) Prior to increasing tuition for each academic year, the  
2 governing boards of the state universities, the regional  
3 universities, and The Evergreen State College shall consult with  
4 existing student associations or organizations with student  
5 undergraduate and graduate representatives regarding the impacts of  
6 potential tuition increases.

7 (b) Each governing board shall make public its proposal for  
8 tuition increases twenty-one days before the governing board of the  
9 institution considers adoption and, within the twenty-one days, allow  
10 an opportunity for public comment.

11 (2) (a) Prior to increasing tuition for each academic year, the  
12 state board for community and technical colleges system shall consult  
13 with existing student associations or organizations with  
14 undergraduate student representation regarding the impacts of  
15 potential tuition increases.

16 (b) The state board shall make public its proposal for tuition  
17 increases twenty-one days before adoption of the increase and, within  
18 the twenty-one days, allow an opportunity for public comment.

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