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**SENATE BILL 5544**

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

**By Senators Ranker, Litzow, Fain, Hasegawa, Schlicher, and Kline**

1            AN ACT Relating to an online higher education transfer and student  
2            advising system; and adding a new section to chapter 28B.77 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 28B.77 RCW  
5            to read as follows:

6            (1) By September 1, 2014, the council, in conjunction with the  
7            state board for community and technical colleges, the workforce  
8            training and education coordinating board, the four-year institutions  
9            of higher education, nonprofit institutions of higher education, and  
10           for-profit institutions of higher education shall establish and  
11           maintain a statewide online transfer and student advising system that  
12           integrates information related to programs, advising, registration,  
13           admissions, and transfer. The system must be easily accessible to all  
14           Washington high school students and their parents or guardians, higher  
15           education students, faculty, counselors, advisors, and other  
16           professional staff. The purpose of the system is to:

17           (a) Assist students to access higher education program information  
18           easily and speed completion of their education programs by clarifying

1 and simplifying the process for researching programs, resources, and  
2 transferability of courses; and

3 (b) Improve efficiency of service delivery to students for  
4 institutions of higher education.

5 (2) The online transfer and student advising system must:

6 (a) Integrate with web sites maintained by the council, the state  
7 board for community and technical colleges, the workforce training and  
8 education coordinating board, institutions of higher education, and  
9 other web sites to provide an inventory of postsecondary degrees and  
10 certificates available in the state, including online options; and  
11 outline educational requirements for various occupations, including  
12 labor market information;

13 (b) Specify educational requirements, admissions requirements, and  
14 prerequisites for all postsecondary programs;

15 (c) Identify course options that meet the requirements of a  
16 selected path toward a degree or certificate;

17 (d) Provide registration and admissions information for  
18 institutions of higher education;

19 (e) Provide a method for students to assess which courses and  
20 programs are transferrable from one institution of higher education to  
21 another; and which programs will transfer with credit towards  
22 completion of their chosen degree or certificate; and

23 (f) Provide information regarding student financial aid and other  
24 services that assist students to research, access, and complete degrees  
25 and certificates.

26 (3) The council, the state board for community and technical  
27 colleges, the workforce training and education coordinating board, the  
28 four-year institutions of higher education, nonprofit institutions of  
29 higher education, and for-profit institutions of higher education shall  
30 sign a memorandum of understanding that specifies roles and  
31 responsibilities regarding the design, implementation, promotion,  
32 development, maintenance, and analysis of the effectiveness of the  
33 online transfer and student advising system.

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