
SENATE BILL 6029

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Senators Shin, Tom, Hargrove, Hatfield, Harper, Pridemore, Delvin, Haugen, and Honeyford

1 AN ACT Relating to the opportunity to complete a baccalaureate
2 degree in three years; and amending RCW 28A.230.130 and 28B.10.118.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.230.130 and 2011 c 77 s 2 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) All public high schools of the state shall provide a program,
7 directly or in cooperation with a community college or another school
8 district, for students whose educational plans include application for
9 entrance to a baccalaureate-granting institution after being granted a
10 high school diploma. The program shall help these students to meet at
11 least the minimum entrance requirements under RCW 28B.10.050.

12 (2) All public high schools of the state shall provide a program,
13 directly or in cooperation with a community or technical college, a
14 skills center, an apprenticeship committee, or another school district,
15 for students who plan to pursue career or work opportunities other than
16 entrance to a baccalaureate-granting institution after being granted a
17 high school diploma. These programs may:

18 (a) Help students demonstrate the application of essential academic

1 learning requirements to the world of work, occupation-specific skills,
2 knowledge of more than one career in a chosen pathway, and
3 employability and leadership skills; and

4 (b) Help students demonstrate the knowledge and skill needed to
5 prepare for industry certification, and/or have the opportunity to
6 articulate to postsecondary education and training programs.

7 (3) Within existing resources, all public high schools in the state
8 shall:

9 (a) Work towards the goal of offering a sufficient number of high
10 school courses that give students the opportunity to earn the
11 equivalent of a year's worth of postsecondary credit towards a
12 certificate, apprenticeship program, technical degree, or associate or
13 baccalaureate degree. These high school courses are those advanced
14 courses that have accompanying proficiency exams or demonstrated
15 competencies that are used to demonstrate postsecondary knowledge and
16 skills; and

17 (b) Inform students and their families, emphasizing communication
18 to underrepresented groups, about the program offerings and the
19 opportunities to take courses that qualify for postsecondary credit
20 through demonstrated competencies or if the student earns the
21 qualifying score on the proficiency exam. This information shall
22 encourage students to use the twelfth grade as the launch year for an
23 advance start on their career and postsecondary education.

24 (4) Within existing resources, all public high schools in the state
25 must inform students and their families about opportunities to complete
26 a baccalaureate degree program in three years.

27 (5) A middle school that receives approval from the office of the
28 superintendent of public instruction to provide a career and technical
29 program in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics directly to
30 students shall receive funding at the same rate as a high school
31 operating a similar program. Additionally, a middle school that
32 provides a hands-on experience in science, technology, engineering, or
33 mathematics with an integrated curriculum of academic content and
34 career and technical education, and includes a career and technical
35 education exploratory component shall also qualify for the career and
36 technical education funding.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.10.118 and 2011 c 108 s 2 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 (1) State universities, regional universities, and The Evergreen
4 State College may develop accelerated baccalaureate degree programs
5 that will allow academically qualified students to obtain a
6 baccalaureate degree in three years without attending summer classes or
7 enrolling in more than a full-time class load during the regular
8 academic year. The programs must allow academically qualified students
9 to begin coursework within their academic field during their first term
10 or semester of enrollment.

11 (2) The state universities, regional universities, and The
12 Evergreen State College shall report on their plans for the accelerated
13 baccalaureate degree programs to the higher education coordinating
14 board or its successor agency for approval by July 1, 2012.

15 (3) By July 1, 2012, each institution of higher education must
16 clearly include in its admissions materials and on its web site
17 accelerated baccalaureate degree programs as well as additional
18 opportunities to complete a baccalaureate degree program in three
19 years. By August 1, 2012, each institution must provide this
20 information to the higher education coordinating board or its successor
21 agency in a form that the superintendent of public instruction is able
22 to distribute to school districts.

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