

PSSB 6266

1 AN ACT Relating to creation of a statewide database of disability
2 accommodation resources; adding new sections to chapter 28B.10 RCW; and
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 The legislature finds that postsecondary education helps
8 individuals to become productive and contributing members of society,
9 and that individuals with disabilities are equally benefited by gaining
10 postsecondary education. The legislature also finds that students with
11 disabilities face a disproportionate number of challenges when pursuing
12 postsecondary education, and that people who have disabilities are less
13 than half as likely to have a baccalaureate degree compared to people
14 who do not have a disability. The legislature further finds that one
15 such challenge is the inconsistency in accommodation resources
16 available to them at the primary, secondary, and postsecondary
17 educational levels, incurring significant strain for students as they
18 transition between the different components of the educational path to
19 employment as adults.

1 The legislature intends to establish a common database of
2 information that will allow institutions to make more informed
3 decisions when they purchase new resources for students with
4 disabilities, and to therefore increase the consistency among
5 institutions at a pace which each institution believes to be most
6 appropriate for their students. The legislature further intends that
7 this database may assist in the sharing of resources between
8 institutions and, when appropriate, in the retention of adaptive
9 equipment by students after transitioning between institutions. The
10 legislature intends for this collaboration among institutions to
11 ultimately reduce the barriers to postsecondary education faced by
12 students with disabilities, thereby increasing the number productive
13 and contributing members of Washington's educated workforce.

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

16 Central Washington University shall create, coordinate, designate,
17 and recommend the use of a statewide database of student disability
18 accommodation equipment, software, and resources owned by each school
19 district and institution of higher education.

20 (1) The database shall be maintained by Central Washington
21 University. Central Washington University shall collaborate with the
22 office of the superintendent of public instruction and other
23 institutions of higher education regarding the database. The database
24 must be a uniform and interactive computerized statewide list of
25 student disability accommodation equipment, software, and resources.

26 (2) School districts and institutions of higher education,
27 including community and technical colleges, are required to report all
28 currently owned and inventoried student disability accommodation
29 equipment, software, and resources, if an inventoried list of such
30 resources is readily available to the school district or institution,
31 in the database. School districts and institutions of higher education
32 may search the database as needed.

33 (3) Central Washington University may adopt rules necessary to
34 implement this section.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If specific funding for the purposes of this

1 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
2 June 30, 2012, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
3 void.

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