

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	6 - 1 - 2
Yeas:	Gallegos, Gorsek, Greenlick, Huffman, Smith Warner, Harker
Nays:	Whisnant
Exc.:	Gilliam, Johnson
Prepared By:	Victoria Cox, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/10, 2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires institutions of higher education to provide students with fact sheets regarding program requirements, costs of education, loans, average salary or wages, loan default rates and related data prior to enrollment. Requires annual report to Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Directs HECC to establish process for collecting program- and degree-specific completion, on-time graduation and retention rate statistics. Regulates advertising and solicitation of students by institutions of higher education. Empowers HECC to work toward increasing amount of program-specific data available, while ensuring that institutions are not unduly burdened. Becomes operative July 1, 2015.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of past legislation and interim work group
- Intent to ensure most efficient use of limited state student aid grants
- Differences in reporting employment outlook for technical degrees and certificates versus liberal arts degrees
- Desire to see more information on credit transferability between institutions

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Empowers HECC to work toward increasing amount of program-specific data available, while ensuring that institutions are not unduly burdened.

BACKGROUND: House Bill 4019-A requires institutions of higher education to provide prospective students with information regarding the total cost of educational programs and prospects for future employment. The measure specifies the data to be included in fact sheets and requires institutions to submit them to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) for posting on-line. The measure provides HECC with rulemaking authority to amend data included on fact sheets to comply with federal reporting requirements. Additionally, House Bill 4019-A prohibits specified advertising and solicitation practices used to recruit new students. This measure was considered in 2013 as House Bill 3079 (as introduced) and contains the recommendations of an interim work group.