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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5676**

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**State of Washington**

**64th Legislature**

**2015 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Higher Education (originally sponsored by Senators Roach, Rolfes, Jayapal, Hargrove, and Hasegawa)

READ FIRST TIME 02/20/15.

1 AN ACT Relating to the acceptance of additional high school  
2 equivalency tests; and amending RCW 28B.50.536.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.50.536 and 2013 c 39 s 9 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) Subject to rules adopted by the state board of education  
7 under RCW 28A.305.190, the state board for community and technical  
8 colleges shall adopt rules governing the eligibility of persons  
9 sixteen years of age and older to take a test to earn a high school  
10 equivalency certificate, rules governing the administration of the  
11 test, and rules governing the issuance of a high school equivalency  
12 certificate to persons who successfully complete the test.

13 (2)(a) A high school equivalency certificate is a certificate  
14 issued jointly by the college board and the office of the  
15 superintendent of public instruction that indicates that the holder  
16 has attained standard scores at or above the minimum proficiency  
17 level prescribed by the college board on a high school equivalency  
18 test.

19 (b) The college board must identify and accept ((a)) high school  
20 equivalency tests that ((is)) are at least as rigorous as the general  
21 educational development test. The high school equivalency tests

1 identified by the college board must cover reading, writing,  
2 mathematics, science, and social studies subject areas.

3 (c) The college board must identify at least one test option that  
4 is low cost to the student and at least one test option that does not  
5 require computer proficiency. The college board must identify at  
6 least one test option that is appropriate for students who have been  
7 in the workforce, need a high school diploma for employment reasons,  
8 have been incarcerated or in the military, have been removed from any  
9 academic environment for four years or more, or are not planning to  
10 pursue a college education.

11 (3) High school equivalency certificates issued under this  
12 section shall be issued in such form and substance as agreed upon by  
13 the state board for community and technical colleges and  
14 superintendent of public instruction.

15 (4) The college board must communicate the menu of accepted test  
16 options under subsection (2) of this section to public and private  
17 administrators of the high school equivalency tests.

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