2026 Legislation Update

BRING ON TOMORROW

SEA 256 – Foreign Adversaries, Research Security, and Enrollment

What the law requires

- Public universities must conduct a **security review** before admitting or enrolling certain foreign students identified as agents of a foreign adversary in designated academic programs (e.g., engineering, computer science, AI, life sciences, and other fields designated by CHE).
- Institutions must **report foreign student enrollment data** in covered programs.
- Additional provisions address foreign agent registration and denial of state benefits related to foreign terrorist activity.

SEA 76 – Immigration Matters

What the law requires

- Prohibits public institutions from impeding federal immigration enforcement.
- Authorizes the Attorney General to seek court action and civil penalties if an institution fails to comply with immigration detention requests.
- Allows the Attorney General to defend institutions or employees acting in compliance with the law.

SEA 204 – Various Education Matters

What the law requires

- Raises the approval threshold for certain university capital projects to **$3 million**.
- Allows universities to **phase out degree programs** denied continuation approval rather than shutting them down immediately.
- Prohibits health profession programs and clinical partners from **requiring vaccinations** when a student objects on religious grounds.
- Requires public universities to **award credit for AP exam scores of 3 or higher**.

SEA 199 – Accreditation Review and Low-Performing Programs

What the law requires

- Directs the Commission for Higher Education (CHE) to review accrediting agencies and report findings to the General Assembly.
- Requires institutions to obtain **CHE approval** to continue degree programs with low enrollment or designated as low-earning outcome programs.

SEA 88 – Classic Learning Test (CLT)

What the law requires

- Requires state educational institutions to **accept the CLT** on the same basis as the ACT or SAT for admissions purposes.

HEA 1266 – Accelerated Graduate Programs & Workforce Pell Alignment

What the law requires

- Requires institutions offering two-year graduate programs in mental or behavioral health to **evaluate feasibility** of accelerated completion pathways.
- Requires the Department of Workforce Development to align state Workforce Pell Grants with federal rules.

HEA 1358 – Medical Education Curriculum

What the law requires

- Medical schools must include **nutrition education** in the curriculum.
- Medical students must complete a **rural health rotation**.