
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5013

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Senators Schoesler, Sheldon and Holmquist)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to tuition setting authority; amending RCW
2 28B.15.067; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that it is imperative
5 for Washington citizens to have access to higher education. A well-
6 educated citizenry is essential to both Washington's public well-being
7 and its economic future. The legislature further finds that
8 affordability is a key factor in whether Washington citizens have
9 access to higher education. At a time when college is more important
10 than ever to a person's educational and economic well-being, rising
11 tuition costs make the dream of going to college even harder to
12 realize. Tuition and fees at the University of Washington have
13 increased eighty-two percent over the past ten years. During the same
14 time, the cost of consumer goods increased on average twenty-two
15 percent and Washington's personal income increased by forty percent.
16 Washington was recently given a D- for affordability by the national
17 center for public policy and higher education. It is the legislature's
18 intent that tuition levels should be predictable for families,

1 students, and institutions, and limiting the amount by which it can be
2 raised will assist in that endeavor.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.15.067 and 2006 c 161 s 6 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 (1) Tuition fees shall be established under the provisions of this
6 chapter.

7 (2) Beginning with the 2003-04 academic year and ending with the
8 (~~2008-09~~) 2006-07 academic year, reductions or increases in full-time
9 tuition fees for resident undergraduates shall be as provided in the
10 omnibus appropriations act.

11 (3) Beginning with the 2003-04 academic year and ending with the
12 2008-09 academic year, the governing boards of the state universities,
13 the regional universities, The Evergreen State College, and the state
14 board for community and technical colleges may reduce or increase full-
15 time tuition fees for all students other than resident undergraduates,
16 including summer school students and students in other self-supporting
17 degree programs. Percentage increases in full-time tuition fees may
18 exceed the fiscal growth factor. Reductions or increases may be made
19 for all or portions of an institution's programs, campuses, courses, or
20 students.

21 (4) Academic year tuition for full-time students at the state's
22 institutions of higher education beginning with 2009-10, other than
23 summer term, shall be as charged during the 2008-09 academic year
24 unless different rates are adopted by the legislature.

25 (5) The tuition fees established under this chapter shall not apply
26 to high school students enrolling in participating institutions of
27 higher education under RCW 28A.600.300 through 28A.600.400.

28 (6) The tuition fees established under this chapter shall not apply
29 to eligible students enrolling in a community or technical college
30 under RCW 28C.04.610.

31 (7) For the academic years 2003-04 through 2008-09, the University
32 of Washington shall use an amount equivalent to ten percent of all
33 revenues received as a result of law school tuition increases beginning
34 in academic year 2000-01 through academic year 2008-09 to assist needy
35 low and middle income resident law students.

36 (8) For the academic years 2003-04 through 2008-09, institutions of
37 higher education shall use an amount equivalent to ten percent of all

1 revenues received as a result of graduate academic school tuition
2 increases beginning in academic year 2003-04 through academic year
3 2008-09 to assist needy low and middle-income resident graduate
4 academic students.

5 (9) Beginning with the 2007-08 academic year and ending with the
6 2016-17 academic year, tuition fees charged to full-time resident
7 undergraduate students may increase no greater than five and one-half
8 percent over the previous academic year in any institution of higher
9 education. Annual reductions or increases in full-time tuition fees
10 for resident undergraduate students shall be as provided in the omnibus
11 appropriations act, within the five and one-half percent increase limit
12 established in this section. To the extent that state appropriations
13 combined with tuition and fee revenues are insufficient to achieve the
14 total per-student funding goals established in subsection (10) of this
15 section, the legislature may authorize enrollment levels and changes in
16 tuition fees for any given fiscal year.

17 (10) The state shall adopt as its goal total per-student funding
18 levels, from state appropriations plus tuition and fees, of at least
19 the sixtieth percentile of total per-student funding at similar public
20 institutions of higher education in the global challenge states. The
21 office of financial management shall develop a funding trajectory for
22 each four-year institution of higher education and for the community
23 and technical college system as a whole that when combined with tuition
24 and fees revenue allows the state to achieve its funding goal for each
25 four-year institution and the community and technical college system as
26 a whole no later than fiscal year 2017. The state shall not reduce
27 enrollment levels below fiscal year 2007 budgeted levels in order to
28 improve or alter the per-student funding amount at any four-year
29 institution of higher education or the community and technical college
30 system as a whole.

31 (11) By September 1st of each year beginning in 2008, the office of
32 financial management shall report to the governor, the higher education
33 coordinating board, and appropriate committees of the legislature with
34 updated estimates of the total per-student funding level that
35 represents the sixtieth percentile of funding for comparable
36 institutions of higher education in the global challenge states, and
37 the progress toward that goal that was made for each of the public
38 institutions of higher education.

1 (12) As used in this section, "global challenge states" are the top
2 performing states on the new economy index published by the progressive
3 policy institute as of the effective date of this section.

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