
SENATE BILL 6280

State of Washington 54th Legislature 1996 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl, Wood, Bauer, Finkbeiner and McAuliffe

Read first time 01/10/96. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to higher education fiscal matters; amending RCW
2 28B.15.031, 28B.15.535, 28B.15.540, 28B.15.380, 28B.15.543, 28B.15.545,
3 28B.15.556, 28B.15.600, and 28B.15.615; adding a new section to chapter
4 28B.15 RCW; and declaring an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.15 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) The governing board of each of the state universities, the
9 regional universities, The Evergreen State College, and the governing
10 boards of each of the community and technical colleges, upon the
11 agreement of its respective student government association or its
12 equivalent, may establish and charge each enrolled student a technology
13 fee, separate from tuition fees, not to exceed one hundred twenty
14 dollars in academic year 1996-97.

15 (2) Revenue from this fee shall be used exclusively for technology
16 resources for general student use.

17 (3) Only changes in the amount of the student technology fee agreed
18 upon by both the governing board and its respective student government
19 association or its equivalent shall be used to adjust the amount

1 charged to students. Changes in the amount charged to students, once
2 implemented, become the basis for future changes.

3 (4) The student technology fee shall not be subject to RCW
4 43.135.055, and may be increased in excess of the fiscal growth
5 factor.

6 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.15.031 and 1995 1st sp.s. c 9 s 2 are each amended
7 to read as follows:

8 The term "operating fees" as used in this chapter shall include the
9 fees, other than building fees, charged all students registering at the
10 state's colleges and universities but shall not include fees for short
11 courses, self-supporting degree credit programs and courses, marine
12 station work, experimental station work, correspondence or extension
13 courses, and individual instruction and student deposits or rentals,
14 disciplinary and library fines, which colleges and universities shall
15 have the right to impose, laboratory, gymnasium, health, technology and
16 student activity fees, or fees, charges, rentals, and other income
17 derived from any or all revenue producing lands, buildings and
18 facilities of the colleges or universities heretofore or hereafter
19 acquired, constructed or installed, including but not limited to income
20 from rooms, dormitories, dining rooms, hospitals, infirmaries, housing
21 or student activity buildings, vehicular parking facilities, land, or
22 the appurtenances thereon, or such other special fees as may be
23 established by any college or university board of trustees or regents
24 from time to time. All moneys received as operating fees at any
25 institution of higher education shall be deposited in a local account
26 containing only operating fees revenue and related interest: PROVIDED,
27 That a minimum of three and one-half percent of operating fees shall be
28 retained by the institutions, except the technical colleges, for the
29 purposes of RCW 28B.15.820. Local operating fee accounts shall not be
30 subject to appropriation by the legislature or allotment procedures
31 under chapter 43.88 RCW.

32 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.15.535 and 1992 c 231 s 15 are each amended to
33 read as follows:

34 (1) The governing boards of the state universities, the regional
35 universities, The Evergreen State College, and the community colleges
36 may waive all or a portion of the tuition (~~and~~), services and
37 activities fees, and technology fees for full-time employees of their

1 respective institutions of higher education enrolled in said
2 institutions' courses on a space available basis pursuant to the
3 following conditions:

4 (a) Employees shall register for and be enrolled in courses on a
5 space available basis, and no new course sections shall be created as
6 a direct result of such registration;

7 (b) Enrollment information on employees registered on a space
8 available basis shall be maintained separately from other enrollment
9 information and shall not be included in official enrollment reports,
10 nor shall persons enrolled pursuant to the provisions of this section
11 be considered in any enrollment statistics which would affect budgetary
12 determinations;

13 (c) Employees registering on a space available basis shall be
14 charged a registration fee of not less than five dollars.

15 (2) The governing boards of the respective colleges and
16 universities may waive all or a portion of tuition and services and
17 activities fees for full-time intercollegiate center for nursing
18 education, cooperative extension service, and agricultural research
19 employees of Washington State University for such employees stationed
20 off the Pullman, Whitman county campus: PROVIDED, That such waiver
21 complies with the conditions spelled out in subsection (1) (a), (b),
22 and (c) of this section.

23 (3) The governing boards of the state universities, the regional
24 universities, and The Evergreen State College and the state board for
25 community and technical colleges shall adopt guidelines for the
26 implementation of institutional employee waivers granted pursuant to
27 this section.

28 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28B.15.540 and 1992 c 231 s 16 are each amended to
29 read as follows:

30 Consistent with the regulations and procedures established by the
31 governing boards of the state universities, the regional universities,
32 and The Evergreen State College and the state board for community and
33 technical colleges, each institution may for Washington residents who
34 are sixty years of age or older:

35 (1) Waive, in whole or in part, the tuition (~~and~~), services and
36 activities fees, and technology fees for students who qualify under
37 this section and who are enrolled for credit, and

1 (2) Waive, in whole or in part, the tuition ((and)), services and
2 activities fees, and technology fees for students who qualify under
3 this section, but charge a nominal fee not to exceed five dollars per
4 quarter, or semester, as the case may be, for such students who are
5 enrolled on an audit basis: PROVIDED, That residents enrolling with
6 fee exemptions under this section shall register for not more than two
7 quarter or semester courses at one time on a space available basis, and
8 no new course sections shall be created as a direct result of such
9 registration: PROVIDED FURTHER, That such waivers shall not be
10 available to students who plan to use the course credits gained thereby
11 for increasing credentials or salary schedule increases: PROVIDED
12 FURTHER, That enrollment information concerning fee exemptions awarded
13 under this section shall be maintained separately from other enrollment
14 information but shall not be included in official enrollment reports:
15 PROVIDED, That persons who enroll pursuant to provisions of this
16 section shall not be considered for any purpose in determining student-
17 teacher ratio, nor for any purpose relating to enrollment totals, nor
18 any other statistic which would affect budgetary determinations.
19 Persons enrolling under the provisions of this section shall have, in
20 equal with all other students, access to course counseling services and
21 shall be subject to all course prerequisite requirements.

22 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28B.15.380 and 1993 sp.s. c 18 s 10 are each amended
23 to read as follows:

24 Subject to the limitations of RCW 28B.15.910, the governing boards
25 of the state universities, the regional universities, and The Evergreen
26 State College may exempt the following students from the payment of all
27 or a portion of tuition fees ((and)), services and activities fees, and
28 technology fees:

29 (1) All veterans as defined in RCW 41.04.005: PROVIDED, That such
30 persons are no longer entitled to federal vocational or educational
31 benefits conferred by virtue of their military service: AND PROVIDED
32 FURTHER, That if any such veterans have not resided in this state for
33 one year prior to registration, the board may exempt the student from
34 paying up to fifty percent of the nonresident tuition fees
35 differential. Such exemptions may be provided only to those persons
36 otherwise covered who were enrolled in universities on or before
37 October 1, 1977.

1 (2) Children of any law enforcement officer or fire fighter who
2 lost his or her life or became totally disabled in the line of duty
3 while employed by any public law enforcement agency or full time or
4 volunteer fire department in this state: PROVIDED, That such persons
5 may receive the exemption only if they begin their course of study at
6 a state-supported college or university within ten years of their
7 graduation from high school.

8 **Sec. 6.** RCW 28B.15.543 and 1995 1st sp.s. c 5 s 2 are each amended
9 to read as follows:

10 (1) Subject to the limitations of RCW 28B.15.910, the governing
11 boards of the state universities, the regional universities, The
12 Evergreen State College, and the community colleges shall waive tuition
13 (~~and~~), service and activities fees, and technology fees for students
14 named by the higher education coordinating board on or before June 30,
15 1994, as recipients of the Washington scholars award under RCW
16 28A.600.100 through 28A.600.150. The waivers shall be used only for
17 undergraduate studies. To qualify for the waiver, recipients shall
18 enter the college or university within three years of high school
19 graduation and maintain a minimum grade point average at the college or
20 university equivalent to 3.30. Students shall be eligible to receive
21 a maximum of twelve quarters or eight semesters of waivers and may
22 transfer among state-supported institutions of higher education during
23 that period and continue to have the tuition and services and
24 activities fees waived by the state-supported institution of higher
25 education that the student attends. Should the student's cumulative
26 grade point average fall below 3.30 during the first three quarters or
27 two semesters, that student may petition the higher education
28 coordinating board which shall have the authority to establish a
29 probationary period until such time as the student's grade point
30 average meets required standards.

31 (2) Students named by the higher education coordinating board after
32 June 30, 1994, as recipients of the Washington scholars award under RCW
33 28A.600.100 through 28A.600.150 shall be eligible to receive a grant
34 for undergraduate course work as authorized under RCW 28B.80.245.

35 **Sec. 7.** RCW 28B.15.545 and 1995 1st sp.s. c 7 s 7 are each amended
36 to read as follows:

1 (1) Subject to the limitations of RCW 28B.15.910, the governing
2 boards of the state universities, the regional universities, The
3 Evergreen State College, and the community colleges shall waive tuition
4 ~~((and))~~, services and activities fees, and technology fees for a
5 maximum of two years for those recipients of the Washington award for
6 vocational excellence established under RCW 28C.04.520 through
7 28C.04.540 who received their awards before June 30, 1994. Each
8 recipient shall not receive a waiver for more than six quarters or four
9 semesters. To qualify for the waiver, recipients shall enter the
10 college or university within three years of receiving the award. A
11 minimum grade point average at the college or university equivalent to
12 3.00, or an above-average rating at a technical college, shall be
13 required in the first year to qualify for the second-year waiver. The
14 tuition waiver shall be granted for undergraduate studies only.

15 (2) Students named by the work force training and education
16 coordinating board after June 30, 1994, as recipients of the Washington
17 award for vocational excellence under RCW 28C.04.520 through 28C.04.550
18 shall be eligible to receive a grant for undergraduate course work as
19 authorized under RCW 28B.80.272.

20 **Sec. 8.** RCW 28B.15.556 and 1993 sp.s. c 18 s 21 are each amended
21 to read as follows:

22 Subject to the limitations of RCW 28B.15.910, the governing boards
23 of the state universities, the regional universities, and The Evergreen
24 State College may waive all or a portion of the tuition, ~~((and))~~
25 services and activities fees, and technology fees for undergraduate or
26 graduate students of foreign nations subject to the following
27 limitations:

28 (1) No more than the equivalent of one hundred waivers may be
29 awarded to undergraduate or graduate students of foreign nations at
30 each of the two state universities;

31 (2) No more than the equivalent of twenty waivers may be awarded to
32 undergraduate or graduate students of foreign nations at each of the
33 regional universities and The Evergreen State College;

34 (3) Priority in the awarding of waivers shall be given to students
35 on academic exchanges or academic special programs sponsored by
36 recognized international educational organizations; and

1 (4) An undergraduate or graduate student of a foreign nation
2 receiving a waiver under this section is not eligible for any other
3 waiver.

4 The waiver programs under this section, to the greatest extent
5 possible, shall promote reciprocal placements and waivers in foreign
6 nations for Washington residents. The number of waivers awarded by
7 each institution shall not exceed the number of that institution's own
8 students enrolled in approved study programs abroad during the same
9 period.

10 **Sec. 9.** RCW 28B.15.600 and 1995 c 36 s 1 are each amended to read
11 as follows:

12 The governing boards of the state universities, the regional
13 universities, and The Evergreen State College may refund or cancel in
14 full the tuition (~~and~~), services and activities fees, and technology
15 fees if the student withdraws from a university or college course or
16 program prior to the sixth day of instruction of the quarter or
17 semester for which the fees have been paid or are due. If the student
18 withdraws on or after the sixth day of instruction, the governing
19 boards may refund or cancel up to one-half of the fees, provided such
20 withdrawal occurs within the first thirty calendar days following the
21 beginning of instruction. However, if a different policy is required
22 by federal law in order for the institution of higher education to
23 maintain eligibility for federal funding of programs, the governing
24 board may adopt a refund policy that meets the minimum requirements of
25 the federal law, and the policy may treat all students attending the
26 institution in the same manner.

27 The governing boards of the respective universities and college may
28 adopt rules for the refund of tuition and fees for courses or programs
29 that begin after the start of the regular quarter or semester. The
30 governing boards may adopt rules to comply with RCW 28B.15.623 and may
31 extend the refund or cancellation period for students who withdraw for
32 medical reasons or who are called into the military service of the
33 United States and may refund other fees pursuant to such rules as they
34 may prescribe.

35 **Sec. 10.** RCW 28B.15.615 and 1993 sp.s. c 18 s 23 are each amended
36 to read as follows:

1 Subject to the limitations of RCW 28B.15.910, the governing boards
2 of the state universities and the regional universities may exempt the
3 following students from paying all or a portion of the resident
4 operating fee and technology fee: Students granted a graduate service
5 appointment, designated as such by the institution, involving not less
6 than twenty hours of work per week. The exemption shall be for the
7 term of the appointment. (~~The stipend paid to persons holding
8 graduate student appointments from nonstate funds shall be reduced and
9 the institution reimbursed from such funds in an amount equal to the
10 resident operating fee which funds shall be transmitted to the general
11 fund.~~)

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** If any provision of this act or its
13 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
14 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
15 persons or circumstances is not affected.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** This act is necessary for the immediate
17 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
18 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
19 effect immediately.

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