

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 2534

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### As Passed Legislature

**Title:** An act relating to waiving operating fees for students registered in a program for doctor of pharmacy.

**Brief Description:** Waiving operating fees for students registered for a doctor of pharmacy.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Parlette, Carlson, Anderson, Wensman, Alexander and Doumit.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Higher Education: 1/27/98, 1/30/98 [DP].

**Floor Activity:**

Passed House: 2/10/98, 96-0.

Passed Legislature.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Carlson, Chairman; Radcliff, Vice Chairman; Mason, Ranking Minority Member; Kenney, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Butler; Dunn; O'Brien; Sheahan and Van Luven.

**Staff:** Marilee Scarbrough (786-7196).

**Background:** Governing boards at the state institutions of higher education charge and collect tuition from students registering at the institution for any quarter or semester. Full-time students registered for more than 18 credit hours are charged an additional operating fee for each credit hour over 18. Institutions may exempt all or a portion of the additional operating fee for students who are registered in a first professional program for medicine, dental medicine, veterinary medicine, law or those registered exclusively in required courses in vocational preparatory programs.

**Summary of Bill:** Institutions also may exempt the additional operating fee for doctor of pharmacy students enrolled for more than 18 credit hours.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 22, 1998.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** The current policy penalizes students who wish to expand their education by forcing them to choose between paying extra tuition fees or taking a course that will help with their careers. Currently, students must pay \$231 per credit for loads exceeding 18 credits. Students will use this new law to expand their educational breadth and depth. The pharmacy degree has changed. At one time, a pharmacist only needed a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree. Beginning this year students must earn a Doctorate of Pharmacy degree.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Representative Linda Evans Parlette, prime sponsor; and Wayne A. Kradjan Associate Dean, University of Washington School of Pharmacy.