

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2534

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.

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.