
SENATE BILL 5568

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Lias, Palumbo, Frockt, Ranker, Wellman, McCoy, Kuderer, Conway, Cleveland, Nelson, Billig, Hunt, Hasegawa, Keiser, and Chase

Read first time 01/27/17. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to freezing tuition at institutions of higher
2 education; and amending RCW 28B.15.067.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.15.067 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 36 s 3 are each
5 amended to read as follows:

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

8 (2) Beginning in the 2011-12 academic year and through the
9 2014-15 academic year, reductions or increases in full-time tuition
10 fees shall be as provided in the omnibus appropriations act for
11 resident undergraduate students at community and technical colleges.

12 (3)(a) In the 2015-16 and 2016-17 academic years, tuition
13 operating fees for resident undergraduates at community and technical
14 colleges excluding applied baccalaureate degrees as defined in RCW
15 28B.50.030, shall be five percent less than the 2014-15 academic year
16 tuition operating fee.

17 (b) In the 2017-18 and 2018-19 academic years, tuition operating
18 fees for resident undergraduates at community and technical colleges
19 shall remain the same as the fee set in the 2016-17 academic year.

20 (c) Beginning in the ((2017-18)) 2019-20 academic year, tuition
21 operating fees for resident undergraduates at community and technical

1 colleges excluding applied baccalaureate degrees as defined in RCW
2 28B.50.030, may increase by no more than the average annual
3 percentage growth rate in the median hourly wage for Washington for
4 the previous fourteen years as the wage is determined by the federal
5 bureau of labor statistics.

6 (4) The governing boards of the state universities, regional
7 universities, and The Evergreen State College; and the state board
8 for community and technical colleges may reduce or increase full-time
9 tuition fees for all students other than resident undergraduates,
10 including nonresident students, summer school students, and students
11 in other self-supporting degree programs. Percentage increases in
12 full-time tuition may exceed the fiscal growth factor. Except during
13 the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, the state board for community and
14 technical colleges may pilot or institute differential tuition
15 models. The board may define scale, scope, and rationale for the
16 models.

17 (5)(a) Beginning with the 2011-12 academic year and through the
18 end of the 2014-15 academic year, the governing boards of the state
19 universities, the regional universities, and The Evergreen State
20 College may reduce or increase full-time tuition fees for all
21 students, including summer school students and students in other
22 self-supporting degree programs. Percentage increases in full-time
23 tuition fees may exceed the fiscal growth factor. Reductions or
24 increases may be made for all or portions of an institution's
25 programs, campuses, courses, or students; however, during the
26 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, reductions or increases in tuition must be
27 uniform among resident undergraduate students.

28 (b) Prior to reducing or increasing tuition for each academic
29 year, the governing boards of the state universities, the regional
30 universities, and The Evergreen State College shall consult with
31 existing student associations or organizations with student
32 undergraduate and graduate representatives regarding the impacts of
33 potential tuition increases. Each governing board shall make public
34 its proposal for tuition and fee increases twenty-one days before the
35 governing board of the institution considers adoption and allow
36 opportunity for public comment. However, the requirement to make
37 public a proposal for tuition and fee increases twenty-one days
38 before the governing board considers adoption shall not apply if the
39 omnibus appropriations act has not passed the legislature by May
40 15th. Governing boards shall be required to provide data regarding

1 the percentage of students receiving financial aid, the sources of
2 aid, and the percentage of total costs of attendance paid for by aid.

3 (c) Prior to reducing or increasing tuition for each academic
4 year, the state board for community and technical college system
5 shall consult with existing student associations or organizations
6 with undergraduate student representation regarding the impacts of
7 potential tuition increases. The state board for community and
8 technical colleges shall provide data regarding the percentage of
9 students receiving financial aid, the sources of aid, and the
10 percentage of total costs of attendance paid for by aid.

11 (6)(a) In the 2015-16 academic year, full-time tuition operating
12 fees for resident undergraduates for state universities, regional
13 universities, The Evergreen State College, and applied baccalaureate
14 degrees as defined in RCW 28B.50.030 shall be five percent less than
15 the 2014-15 academic year tuition operating fee.

16 (b) Beginning with the 2016-17 academic year, full-time tuition
17 operating fees for resident undergraduates for:

18 (i) State universities shall be fifteen percent less than the
19 2014-15 academic year tuition operating fee; and

20 (ii) Regional universities, The Evergreen State College, and
21 applied baccalaureate degrees as defined in RCW 28B.50.030 shall be
22 twenty percent less than the 2014-15 academic year tuition operating
23 fee.

24 (c) In the 2017-18 and 2018-19 academic years, tuition operating
25 fees for resident undergraduates at community and technical colleges
26 shall remain the same as the fee set in the 2016-17 academic year.

27 (d) Beginning with the ((2017-18)) 2019-20 academic year, full-
28 time tuition operating fees for resident undergraduates in (b) of
29 this subsection may increase by no more than the average annual
30 percentage growth rate in the median hourly wage for Washington for
31 the previous fourteen years as the wage is determined by the federal
32 bureau of labor statistics.

33 (7) The tuition fees established under this chapter shall not
34 apply to high school students enrolling in participating institutions
35 of higher education under RCW 28A.600.300 through 28A.600.400.

36 (8) The tuition fees established under this chapter shall not
37 apply to eligible students enrolling in a dropout reengagement
38 program through an interlocal agreement between a school district and
39 a community or technical college under RCW 28A.175.100 through
40 28A.175.110.

1 (9) The legislative advisory committee to the committee on
2 advanced tuition payment established in RCW 28B.95.170 shall:

3 (a) Review the impact of differential tuition rates on the funded
4 status and future unit price of the Washington advanced college
5 tuition payment program; and

6 (b) No later than January 14, 2013, make a recommendation to the
7 appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the legislature regarding
8 how differential tuition should be addressed in order to maintain the
9 ongoing solvency of the Washington advanced college tuition payment
10 program.

11 (10) As a result of any changes in tuition under section 3,
12 chapter 36, Laws of 2015 3rd sp. sess., the governing boards of the
13 state universities, the regional universities, and The Evergreen
14 State College shall not reduce resident undergraduate enrollment
15 below the 2014-15 academic year levels.

--- END ---