
HOUSE BILL 2574

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Stokesbary, Gildon, and Van Werven

Read first time 01/15/20. Referred to Committee on College & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to administrative staffing at institutions of
2 higher education; adding a new section to chapter 28B.07 RCW; and
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** INTENT. The legislature finds that higher
6 education is one of the great equalizers for reducing inequality, but
7 the cost of a college education has exploded making higher education
8 less accessible to lower and middle class families. In support of our
9 public institutions, the legislature has provided extensive financial
10 support, including recently dedicating an entire tax stream to the
11 state's colleges. Because these institutions receive public funds,
12 the legislature and state taxpayers expect that they deliver an
13 education that is both high quality and cost-effective. However, the
14 legislature finds that alarming growth in administrative bureaucracy
15 has made higher education less affordable for families and more
16 expensive to taxpayers.

17 The legislature finds that since 1994, the number of higher
18 education staff has grown at twice the rate of general government,
19 but surprisingly, the faculty to student ratio remained constant
20 while the administrator to student ratio increased by one hundred
21 fifty percent. The legislature finds that this trend has accelerated

1 over the past decade as the number of administrators increased by
2 nearly thirty percent and their salaries grew by sixty-seven percent;
3 at the same time, the number of faculty remained constant and their
4 salaries grew much more slowly, at thirty-eight percent.

5 The legislature finds that institutional priorities over the past
6 decade have been excessively focused on services that occur outside
7 the classroom. The burgeoning administrative bureaucracy and related
8 costs have unnecessarily increased the cost of higher education and
9 are not aligned with the mission of delivering a high quality and
10 cost-effective education. Therefore, the legislature intends for
11 institutions to reduce their administrator to student ratios to 2008
12 levels, the high water mark prior to the great recession. In doing
13 so, the legislature will generate millions of dollars of savings to
14 taxpayers and will reduce the cost of a degree, making college more
15 accessible and affordable for all Washington families.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.07
17 RCW under the subchapter heading "general provisions" to read as
18 follows:

19 (1) By no later than June 30, 2020, each state institution of
20 higher education must reduce the number of nonfaculty exempt
21 employees to a number that is no greater than the amount reflected by
22 the ratio of full-time equivalent nonfaculty exempt employees
23 employed by the institution in fiscal year 2008, to full-time
24 equivalent enrollments served by the institution in fiscal year 2008,
25 multiplied by the number of full-time equivalent enrollments served
26 by the institution in fiscal year 2019. By this method, the number of
27 full-time equivalent nonfaculty exempt employees per full-time
28 equivalent student will be no greater than the institution employed
29 in 2008.

30 (2) For the general fund—state appropriations to each
31 institution, the office of financial management shall adjust
32 allotments by an amount that conforms with the funding adjustments in
33 this section. Any allotment reductions under this section must be
34 placed in reserve status and remain unexpended. Each institution must
35 make at least the following reduction in full-time equivalent
36 nonfaculty exempt employment pursuant to the reduction required by
37 this section:

38 (a) (i) The University of Washington must reduce nonfaculty exempt
39 employment by 16.7 full-time equivalents per one thousand full-time

1 enrollments, resulting in a reduction of at least eight hundred
2 fifteen full-time equivalent employees.

3 (ii) The general fund—state appropriations for fiscal year 2021
4 are reduced by \$8,416,000. Tuition expenditures for fiscal year 2021
5 related to this reduction in employees are anticipated to be reduced
6 by \$16,611,000.

7 (b) (i) Washington State University must reduce nonfaculty exempt
8 employment by 0.4 full-time equivalents per one thousand full-time
9 enrollments, resulting in a reduction of at least eleven full-time
10 equivalent employees.

11 (ii) The general fund—state appropriations for fiscal year 2021
12 are reduced by \$297,000. Tuition expenditures for fiscal year 2021
13 related to this reduction in employees are anticipated to be reduced
14 by \$309,000.

15 (c) Eastern Washington University has a lower ratio of nonfaculty
16 exempt employees to students than in 2008 and is not required to make
17 employee or expenditure reductions by this section.

18 (d) (i) Central Washington University must reduce nonfaculty
19 exempt employment by 14.3 full-time equivalents per one thousand
20 full-time enrollments, resulting in a reduction of at least one
21 hundred forty-two full-time equivalent employees.

22 (ii) The general fund—state appropriations for fiscal year 2021
23 are reduced by \$4,128,000. Tuition expenditures for fiscal year 2021
24 related to this reduction in employees are anticipated to be reduced
25 by \$3,967,000.

26 (e) (i) The Evergreen State College must reduce nonfaculty exempt
27 employment by 13.4 full-time equivalents per one thousand full-time
28 enrollments, resulting in a reduction of at least forty-nine full-
29 time equivalent employees.

30 (ii) The general fund—state appropriations for fiscal year 2021
31 are reduced by \$1,354,000. Tuition expenditures for fiscal year 2021
32 related to this reduction in employees are anticipated to be reduced
33 by \$2,029,000.

34 (f) (i) Western Washington University must reduce nonfaculty
35 exempt employment by 0.2 full-time equivalents per one thousand full-
36 time enrollments, resulting in a reduction of at least three full-
37 time equivalent employees.

38 (ii) The general fund—state appropriations for fiscal year 2021
39 are reduced by \$101,000. Tuition expenditures for fiscal year 2021

1 related to this reduction in employees are anticipated to be reduced
2 by \$110,000.

3 (g)(i) The state board for community and technical colleges must
4 reduce nonfaculty exempt employment by 3.2 full-time equivalents per
5 one thousand full-time enrollments, resulting in a reduction of at
6 least four hundred seven full-time equivalent employees. The board
7 shall allocate these reductions to the individual colleges based on
8 the growth in nonfaculty exempt employee growth at those colleges
9 since 2008, and allocate a portion to the state board based on the
10 board's portion of total nonfaculty exempt staff employed in the
11 community and technical college system.

12 (ii) The general fund—state appropriations for fiscal year 2021
13 are reduced by \$17,066,000. Tuition expenditures for fiscal year 2021
14 related to this reduction in employees are anticipated to be reduced
15 by \$6,685,000.

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