
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1355

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By House College & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Representatives Ortiz-Self, Orwall, Ryu, Sells, Macri, Entenman, Stonier, Valdez, Frame, Gregerson, Tarleton, Doglio, Dolan, Appleton, Bergquist, Slatter, Goodman, Pollet, and Santos)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing staffing standards and ratios for
2 counselors in community and technical colleges; creating a new
3 section; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) A joint legislative task force on
6 community and technical college counselors is created to examine
7 issues related to staffing ratios and standards of counselors in the
8 community and technical college system.

9 (2) The members of the task force are as provided in this
10 subsection.

11 (a) The president of the senate shall appoint two members from
12 each of the two largest caucuses in the senate.

13 (b) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint two
14 members from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of
15 representatives.

16 (c) The president of the senate and the speaker of the house of
17 representatives shall jointly appoint the following members:

18 (i) Four counselors employed by community and technical colleges.
19 At least two of the counselors must be members of the exclusive
20 bargaining representatives that represent counselors; and

21 (ii) One student of a community and technical college.

1 (d) The governor shall appoint the following members:
2 (i) One member representing the state board for community and
3 technical colleges;
4 (ii) Two presidents from two community and technical colleges, or
5 the presidents' designees who have authority to speak on behalf of
6 the colleges; and
7 (iii) Two vice presidents from two community and technical
8 colleges. One must be a vice president of student services and one
9 must be a vice president of instruction.
10 (3) The task force shall choose cochairs from among its
11 legislative membership and may rotate cochairs from each chamber and
12 each caucus.
13 (4) The task force shall examine the following issues:
14 (a) Minimum standards required for counselors, including
15 requirements regarding the level of education, internship experience,
16 practical experience, and content of coursework required;
17 (b) Best practices for counseling services in the community and
18 technical college system and how the colleges will meet the mental
19 health needs of students and qualified staff members;
20 (c) Staffing ratios of counselors and students, including
21 considering issues raised by a staffing ratio of no more than nine
22 hundred students to one full-time equivalent counselor; and
23 (d) Whether legislation is needed to address the issues outlined
24 in this subsection.
25 (5) Staff support for the task force shall be provided by the
26 senate committee services and the house of representatives office of
27 program research.
28 (6) Legislative members of the task force must be reimbursed for
29 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
30 members, except those representing an employer or organization, are
31 entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW
32 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.
33 (7) The expenses of the task force must be paid jointly by the
34 senate and the house of representatives. Task force expenditures are
35 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee
36 and the house of representatives executive rules committee or their
37 successor committees.
38 (8) The task force shall submit its findings and recommendations
39 to the appropriate committees of the legislature by November 1, 2020.

1 The findings must include data on each community and technical
2 college's student-to-counselor ratio.

3 (9) This section expires December 1, 2020.

--- **END** ---