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**HOUSE BILL 1716**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Volz, Reeves, Graham, Kilduff, Steele, Shea, Schmick, McCaslin, MacEwen, Griffey, Stanford, Van Werven, Young, Orwall, Walsh, Sells, Slatter, Peterson, Leavitt, Riccelli, and Smith

Read first time 01/29/19. Referred to Committee on College & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to veterans' mental health services at  
2 institutions of higher education; and adding a new section to chapter  
3 28B.10 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 Subject to the appropriation of funds for this specific purpose,  
8 the state universities, regional universities, and the state college  
9 shall each employ at least one full-time mental health counselor  
10 licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW who has experience and training  
11 specifically related to working with active members of the military  
12 or military veterans. The counselor must prioritize work with  
13 student, faculty, and staff veterans, as well as their spouses and  
14 dependents. The mental health counselor must be accessible through,  
15 but not necessarily located in, each institution's veteran resource  
16 center.

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