
SENATE BILL 6043

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2014 Regular Session

By Senators Baumgartner, Bailey, Brown, Benton, Dinsel, and Roach

Read first time 01/15/14. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a cap for resident undergraduate
2 tuition rates; 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 2013 2nd sp.s. c 4 s 958 are each
5 amended to read as follows:

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

8 (2) Beginning in the ~~((2011-12))~~ 2015-16 academic year,
9 ~~((reductions or increases in))~~ full-time tuition fees ~~((shall be as
10 provided in the omnibus appropriations act))~~ for resident undergraduate
11 students at the state universities, the regional universities, The
12 Evergreen State College, and community and technical colleges shall not
13 exceed ten percent of the most current average annual wage reported by
14 the employment security department. The governing boards of the state
15 universities, regional universities, and The Evergreen State College;
16 and the state board for community and technical colleges may reduce or
17 increase full-time tuition fees for all students other than resident
18 undergraduates, including nonresident students, summer school students,
19 and students in other self-supporting degree programs. Percentage

1 increases in full-time tuition may exceed the fiscal growth factor.
2 (~~(Except during the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, the state board for~~
3 ~~community and technical colleges may pilot or institute differential~~
4 ~~tuition models. The board may define scale, scope, and rationale for~~
5 ~~the models.)~~)

6 (3)(a) (~~(Beginning with the 2011-12 academic year and through the~~
7 ~~end of the 2014-15 academic year, the governing boards of the state~~
8 ~~universities, the regional universities, and The Evergreen State~~
9 ~~College may reduce or increase full-time tuition fees for all students,~~
10 ~~including summer school students and students in other self-supporting~~
11 ~~degree programs. Percentage increases in full-time tuition fees may~~
12 ~~exceed the fiscal growth factor. Reductions or increases may be made~~
13 ~~for all or portions of an institution's programs, campuses, courses, or~~
14 ~~students; however, during the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, reductions or~~
15 ~~increases in tuition must be uniform among resident undergraduate~~
16 ~~students.~~

17 ~~(b))~~ Prior to reducing or increasing tuition for each academic
18 year, the governing boards of the state universities, the regional
19 universities, and The Evergreen State College shall consult with
20 existing student associations or organizations with student
21 undergraduate and graduate representatives regarding the impacts of
22 potential tuition increases. Each governing board shall make public
23 its proposal for tuition and fee increases twenty-one days before the
24 governing board of the institution considers adoption and allow
25 opportunity for public comment. However, the requirement to make
26 public a proposal for tuition and fee increases twenty-one days before
27 the governing board considers adoption shall not apply if the omnibus
28 appropriations act has not passed the legislature by May 15th.
29 Governing boards shall be required to provide data regarding the
30 percentage of students receiving financial aid, the sources of aid, and
31 the percentage of total costs of attendance paid for by aid.

32 ~~((e))~~ (b) Prior to reducing or increasing tuition for each
33 academic year, the state board for community and technical college
34 system shall consult with existing student associations or
35 organizations with undergraduate student representation regarding the
36 impacts of potential tuition increases. The state board for community
37 and technical colleges shall provide data regarding the percentage of

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

3 ~~(4) ((Beginning with the 2015-16 academic year through the 2018-19~~
4 ~~academic year, the governing boards of the state universities, regional~~
5 ~~universities, and The Evergreen State College may set tuition for~~
6 ~~resident undergraduates as follows:~~

7 ~~(a) If state funding for a college or university falls below the~~
8 ~~state funding provided in the operating budget for fiscal year 2011,~~
9 ~~the governing board may increase tuition up to the limits set in (d) of~~
10 ~~this subsection, reduce enrollments, or both;~~

11 ~~(b) If state funding for a college or university is at least at the~~
12 ~~level of state funding provided in the operating budget for fiscal year~~
13 ~~2011, the governing board may increase tuition up to the limits set in~~
14 ~~(d) of this subsection and shall continue to at least maintain the~~
15 ~~actual enrollment levels for fiscal year 2011 or increase enrollments~~
16 ~~as required in the omnibus appropriations act;~~

17 ~~(c) If state funding is increased so that combined with resident~~
18 ~~undergraduate tuition the sixtieth percentile of the total per-student~~
19 ~~funding at similar public institutions of higher education in the~~
20 ~~global challenge states under RCW 28B.15.068 is exceeded, the governing~~
21 ~~board shall decrease tuition by the amount needed for the total per-~~
22 ~~student funding to be at the sixtieth percentile under RCW 28B.15.068;~~
23 ~~and~~

24 ~~(d) The amount of tuition set by the governing board for an~~
25 ~~institution under this subsection (4) may not exceed the sixtieth~~
26 ~~percentile of the resident undergraduate tuition of similar public~~
27 ~~institutions of higher education in the global challenge states.~~

28 ~~(5))~~ The tuition fees established under this chapter shall not
29 apply to high school students enrolling in participating institutions
30 of higher education under RCW 28A.600.300 through 28A.600.400.

31 ~~((+6))~~ (5) The tuition fees established under this chapter shall
32 not apply to eligible students enrolling in a dropout reengagement
33 program through an interlocal agreement between a school district and
34 a community or technical college under RCW 28A.175.100 through
35 28A.175.110.

36 ~~((+7))~~ (6) The tuition fees established under this chapter shall
37 not apply to eligible students enrolling in a community or technical

1 college participating in the pilot program under RCW 28B.50.534 for the
2 purpose of obtaining a high school diploma.

3 ~~((8) Beginning in the 2019-20 academic year, reductions or~~
4 ~~increases in full-time tuition fees for resident undergraduates at~~
5 ~~four-year institutions of higher education shall be as provided in the~~
6 ~~omnibus appropriations act.~~

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

9 ~~(a) Review the impact of differential tuition rates on the funded~~
10 ~~status and future unit price of the Washington advanced college tuition~~
11 ~~payment program; and~~

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

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