
SENATE BILL 6543

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2018 Regular Session

By Senators Braun, Fain, O'Ban, Schoesler, Short, and Wilson

Read first time 01/23/18. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to reducing community and technical college
2 tuition; and amending RCW 28B.15.067 and 28B.15.066.

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 2018-19 academic year, tuition operating fees for
18 resident undergraduates at community and technical colleges,
19 excluding applied baccalaureate degrees as defined in RCW 28B.50.030,
20 shall be ten percent less than the 2017-18 academic year tuition
21 operating fees.

1 (c) Beginning in the ((2017-18)) 2019-20 academic year, tuition
2 operating fees for resident undergraduates at community and technical
3 colleges excluding applied baccalaureate degrees as defined in RCW
4 28B.50.030, may increase by no more than the average annual
5 percentage growth rate in the median hourly wage for Washington for
6 the previous fourteen years as the wage is determined by the federal
7 bureau of labor statistics.

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

19 (5)(a) Beginning with the 2011-12 academic year and through the
20 end of the 2014-15 academic year, the governing boards of the state
21 universities, the regional universities, and The Evergreen State
22 College may reduce or increase full-time tuition fees for all
23 students, including summer school students and students in other
24 self-supporting degree programs. Percentage increases in full-time
25 tuition fees may exceed the fiscal growth factor. Reductions or
26 increases may be made for all or portions of an institution's
27 programs, campuses, courses, or students; however, during the
28 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, reductions or increases in tuition must be
29 uniform among resident undergraduate students.

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

1 omnibus appropriations act has not passed the legislature by May
2 15th. Governing boards shall be required to provide data regarding
3 the percentage of students receiving financial aid, the sources of
4 aid, and the percentage of total costs of attendance paid for by aid.

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

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

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

20 (i) State universities shall be fifteen percent less than the
21 2014-15 academic year tuition operating fee; and

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

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

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

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

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.15.066 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 36 s 2 are each
17 amended to read as follows:

18 (1) Beginning with the 2015-2017 omnibus appropriations act, the
19 legislature shall appropriate to the state board for community and
20 technical colleges and to each of the four-year institutions of
21 higher education an amount that is at least equal to the total state
22 funds appropriated in the 2013-2015 biennium and the net revenue loss
23 from resident undergraduate tuition operating fees based on budgeted
24 full-time equivalent enrollment received for the 2015-2017 fiscal
25 biennium under RCW 28B.15.067 (3) and (6). The net revenue loss shall
26 be adjusted for inflation in subsequent biennia.

27 (2) Beginning with the 2018 supplemental omnibus appropriations
28 act, the legislature shall appropriate to the state board for
29 community and technical colleges an amount that is at least equal to
30 the total state funds appropriated in the 2017-2019 omnibus
31 appropriations act and the net revenue loss from resident
32 undergraduate tuition operating fees based on budgeted full-time
33 equivalent enrollment received for the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium
34 under RCW 28B.15.067. The net revenue loss shall be adjusted for
35 inflation in subsequent biennia.

36 (3) As used in this section and RCW 28B.15.069, "inflation" shall
37 be based on the consumer price index, using the official current
38 base, compiled by the bureau of labor statistics, United States
39 department of labor for the state of Washington. If the bureau of

1 labor statistics develops more than one consumer price index for
2 areas within the state, the index covering the greatest number of
3 people and covering areas exclusively within the boundaries of the
4 state shall be used.

--- END ---