CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5166**

Chapter 182, Laws of 2019

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

REASONABLE RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS--POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 28, 2019

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Passed by the Senate April 19, 2019  Yeas 32 Nays 14  KAREN KEISER  **President of the Senate**  Passed by the House April 10, 2019  Yeas 64 Nays 28  FRANK CHOPP  **Speaker of the House of Representatives** | CERTIFICATE  I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5166** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.  BRAD HENDRICKSON  Secretary |
| Approved April 29, 2019 2:53 PM | April 30, 2019 |
| JAY INSLEE  **Governor of the State of Washington** | **Secretary of State**  **State of Washington** |

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5166**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2019 Regular Session

**State of Washington 66th Legislature 2019 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Senators Hasegawa, Carlyle, Frockt, Palumbo, and Nguyen)

AN ACT Relating to providing religious accommodations for students at postsecondary educational institutions during exams or other requirements to successfully complete a program; amending RCW 28B.10.039; adding a new chapter to Title 28B RCW; and recodifying RCW 28B.10.039.

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

**Sec.**  RCW 28B.10.039 and 2014 c 168 s 4 are each amended to read as follows:

((~~Institutions of higher education~~)) (1) Postsecondary educational institutions must develop policies to accommodate student absences ((~~for up to two days per academic year,~~)) to allow students to take holidays for reasons of faith or conscience or for organized activities conducted under the auspices of a religious denomination, church, or religious organization, so that students' grades are not adversely impacted by the absences.

(2) The institution's policy must require faculty to reasonably accommodate students who, due to the observance of religious holidays, expect to be absent or endure a significant hardship during certain days of the course or program. "Reasonably accommodate" means coordinating with the student on scheduling examinations or other activities necessary for completion of the program and includes rescheduling examinations or activities or offering different times for examinations or activities.

(3) Any student seeking reasonable accommodations under this section must provide written notice to the faculty, within the first two weeks of the beginning of the course, of the specific dates the student requests accommodations regarding examinations or other activities.

(4) A postsecondary educational institution shall provide notice to students of its policy by publishing the policy on the institution's web site and including either the policy or a link to the policy in course or program syllabi. The notice to students must also include notification of the institution's grievance procedure.

(5) A postsecondary educational institution may not require a student to pay any fees for seeking reasonable accommodations under this section.

(6) For the purposes of this section, "postsecondary educational institution" means an institution of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, a degree-granting institution as defined in RCW 28B.85.010, a private vocational school as defined in RCW 28C.10.020, school as defined in RCW 18.16.020, and any entity offering academic credit for an apprenticeship program under RCW 49.04.150.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  RCW 28B.10.039 is recodified as a section in a new chapter in Title 28B RCW.

**--- END ---**

Passed by the Senate April 19, 2019.

Passed by the House April 10, 2019.

Approved by the Governor April 29, 2019.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 30, 2019.