

5448-S

Sponsor(s): Senate Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Senators Carlson, Kohl-Welles, Mulliken, Horn, Brown and Schmidt; by request of Governor Locke)

Brief Description: Changing tuition provisions for institutions of higher education.

SB 5448-S.E - DIGEST

(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

Finds that, as a partner in financing public higher education with students and parents who pay tuition and fees, periodic increases in state funding, state financial aid, and tuition must be authorized to provide high quality higher education for the citizens of Washington. It is the intent of the legislature to address higher education through a cooperative bipartisan effort that includes the legislative and executive branches of government, parents, students, educators, as well as business, labor, and community leaders.

Recognizes the importance of keeping the public commitment to public higher education and will continue searching for policies that halt the trend for the growth in tuition revenue to outpace the revenue provided by the state.

Finds that the six-year time limitation authorizing the governing boards to establish tuition rates for all students other than undergraduate resident students will give the legislature, the governor, and the higher education institutions an opportunity to determine whether this policy achieves the goal of maintaining quality and access for all who are eligible for and can benefit from a higher education. Using data from six years of this tuition policy, the state will be able to identify options for long-term funding of higher education including not only tuition but general fund and financial aid sources.