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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2583**

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**State of Washington**

**59th Legislature**

**2006 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Education  
(originally sponsored by Representatives Kenney, Cox, Conway,  
Hasegawa, Roberts, Appleton, Upthegrove, Morrell, Linville, Hunt,  
Dickerson and Ormsby)

READ FIRST TIME 02/08/06.

1       AN ACT Relating to community and technical college part-time  
2 academic employee health care benefits; adding a new section to chapter  
3 41.05 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28B.50 RCW; creating a new  
4 section; and declaring an emergency.

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

6       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Part-time academic employees at community  
7 and technical colleges are currently eligible for full health care  
8 benefits beginning the second consecutive quarter of employment, at  
9 half-time or more of an academic workload, as defined in RCW  
10 28B.50.489. They are also eligible for health benefits through the  
11 summer even if they receive no work at all that quarter, if they have  
12 worked half-time or more of an academic workload in three of the four  
13 preceding quarters. However, workload fluctuations below these  
14 thresholds may result in the loss of employer contributions for health  
15 care benefits. It is the intent of the legislature to provide for  
16 continuous health care eligibility for part-time academic employees  
17 based on averaging workload gained during the preceding academic year.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 41.05 RCW  
2 to read as follows:

3        (1) Part-time academic employees, as defined in RCW 28B.50.489, who  
4 have established eligibility as determined from the payroll records of  
5 the employing community or technical college districts, for employer  
6 contributions for benefits under this chapter and who have worked an  
7 average of half-time or more in an academic year, through employment at  
8 one or more community or technical college districts, are eligible for  
9 continuation of employer contributions for the subsequent summer  
10 quarter period including the break between summer and fall quarters.

11        (2) Once a part-time academic employee meets the criteria in  
12 subsection (1) of this section, the employee shall continue to receive  
13 uninterrupted employer contributions for benefits if the employee works  
14 at least three of the four quarters of the academic year with an  
15 average academic workload of half-time or more. Benefits provided  
16 under this section cease at the end of the academic year if this  
17 criteria is not met.

18        (3) As used in this section, "academic year" means summer, fall,  
19 winter, and spring quarters.

20        (4) This section does not modify rules in existence on the  
21 effective date of this section adopted under this chapter regarding the  
22 initial establishment of eligibility for benefits.

23        (5) This section does not preclude individuals from being eligible  
24 for benefits under other laws or rules that may apply or for which they  
25 may be eligible.

26        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW  
27 to read as follows:

28        Health care benefits for part-time academic employees are governed  
29 by section 2 of this act.

30        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    This act is necessary for the immediate  
31 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
32 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
33 immediately.

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