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HOUSE BILL 1238

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Pollet, Haler, Tarleton, Sells, Holy, Orwall, Bergquist, Frame, Fitzgibbon, Ormsby, Stanford, and Farrell

Read first time 01/13/17. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating new full-time tenure track positions  
2 at the state's four-year public institutions of higher education;  
3 adding a new section to chapter 28B.10 RCW; creating a new section;  
4 and providing an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature declares that:

7 (a) One of the most valuable assets of the four-year public  
8 institutions of higher education is the tenured faculty who teach,  
9 advise, mentor, and in many other ways contribute to the institutions  
10 that employ them. According to research, student completion and  
11 success in college improve when students are taught by tenured  
12 faculty members. However, in 2016, only forty-five to fifty-five  
13 percent of the faculty at the state and regional universities were  
14 full-time tenure track faculty.

15 (b) Student completion and success may be significantly improved  
16 by increasing the percent of full-time tenure track faculty who will  
17 provide instruction, advising, mentoring, curriculum and resource  
18 development, and other functions.

19 (2) Therefore, it is the legislature's goal that over the next  
20 several years, the four-year public institutions increase the numbers  
21 of full-time tenure track faculty positions on their campuses.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 28B.10  
2    RCW to read as follows:

3        (1)    For the purposes of this section "four-year public  
4    institution" refers to any one of the state or regional universities  
5    or the state college.

6        (2)(a) Subject to availability of amounts appropriated for this  
7    specific purpose, the faculty expansion program at the four-year  
8    public institutions is created. The purpose of the program is to  
9    encourage the four-year public institutions to increase the number of  
10   full-time tenure track faculty positions on their campuses.

11       (b) For every two full-time tenure track faculty positions  
12   created by a four-year public institution in the 2017-2019 fiscal  
13   biennium, which the four-year public institution must fill or be  
14   actively seeking to fill, the program must provide to that four-year  
15   public institution one hundred thousand dollars for the 2017-2019  
16   fiscal biennium and one hundred thousand dollars for the 2019-2021  
17   fiscal biennium, to be used solely for the purpose of funding a third  
18   full-time tenure track faculty position at the four-year public  
19   institution, which the four-year public institution must fill or  
20   actively seek to fill. Each four-year public institution is eligible  
21   to receive up to five hundred thousand dollars for the 2017-2019  
22   fiscal biennium and five hundred thousand dollars for the 2019-2021  
23   fiscal biennium, to fund a total of five program-funded full-time  
24   tenure track faculty positions created under this section.

25       (c) A four-year public institution is eligible to receive amounts  
26   under this section only if the prerequisite full-time tenure track  
27   faculty positions created are new. A new full-time tenure track  
28   faculty position means a position that did not exist at the four-year  
29   public institution before the fall of 2017. A vacant full-time tenure  
30   track faculty position that exists due to attrition or retirement is  
31   not a new full-time tenure track faculty position and may not be  
32   counted as a prerequisite full-time tenure track faculty position for  
33   the purposes of this section.

34       (d) The duties of the prerequisite full-time tenure track faculty  
35   positions and the program-funded full-time tenure track faculty  
36   positions must include a full-time teaching load, advising, and  
37   curriculum development.

38       (3) This section expires June 30, 2022.

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