

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

Approved April 29, 2019 2:53 PM

JAY INSLEE

Governor of the State of Washington

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

FILED

April 30, 2019

**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)

READ FIRST TIME 01/31/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing religious accommodations for
2 students at postsecondary educational institutions during exams or
3 other requirements to successfully complete a program; amending RCW
4 28B.10.039; adding a new chapter to Title 28B RCW; and recodifying
5 RCW 28B.10.039.

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

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.10.039 and 2014 c 168 s 4 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

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

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

1 rescheduling examinations or activities or offering different times
2 for examinations or activities.

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

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

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

16 (6) For the purposes of this section, "postsecondary educational
17 institution" means an institution of higher education as defined in
18 RCW 28B.10.016, a degree-granting institution as defined in RCW
19 28B.85.010, a private vocational school as defined in RCW 28C.10.020,
20 school as defined in RCW 18.16.020, and any entity offering academic
21 credit for an apprenticeship program under RCW 49.04.150.

22 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. RCW 28B.10.039 is recodified as a section
23 in a new chapter in Title 28B RCW.

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.

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