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HOUSE BILL 1166

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State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

**By** Representatives Leavitt, Caldier, Sutherland, Chopp, Lekanoff, Davis, Shewmake, Pollet, Ramos, Callan, Rule, Gregerson, Bateman, Harris-Talley, and J. Johnson

Read first time 01/12/21. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding access to the homeless and foster  
2 care college students pilot program; amending RCW 28B.50.916 and  
3 28B.77.850; and providing expiration dates.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.50.916 and 2019 c 330 s 1 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
8 specific purpose, the college board shall select (~~four~~) eight  
9 college districts, (~~two~~) four on each side of the crest of the  
10 Cascade mountain range, to participate in a pilot program to provide  
11 assistance to students experiencing homelessness and to students who  
12 were in the foster care system when they graduated high school. The  
13 college districts chosen to participate in the pilot program must  
14 provide certain accommodations to these students that may include,  
15 but are not limited to, the following:

- 16 (a) Access to laundry facilities;  
17 (b) Access to storage;  
18 (c) Access to locker room and shower facilities;  
19 (d) Reduced-price meals or meal plans, and access to food banks;  
20 (e) Access to technology;

1 (f) Access to short-term housing or housing assistance,  
2 especially during seasonal breaks; and

3 (g) Case management services.

4 (2) The college districts may also establish plans to develop  
5 surplus property for affordable housing to accommodate the needs of  
6 students experiencing homelessness and students who were in the  
7 foster care system when they graduated high school.

8 (3) The college districts participating in the pilot program  
9 shall leverage existing community resources by making available to  
10 students in the pilot program information that is available for  
11 individuals experiencing homelessness, including through not-for-  
12 profit organizations, the local housing authority, and the department  
13 of commerce's office of homeless youth.

14 (4) The college districts participating in the pilot program  
15 shall provide a joint report to the appropriate committees of the  
16 legislature by December 1, 2023, that includes at least the following  
17 information:

18 (a) The number of students experiencing homelessness or food  
19 insecurity, and the number of students who were in the foster care  
20 system when they graduated high school who were attending a community  
21 or technical college during the pilot program. The college board  
22 shall coordinate with all of the community and technical colleges to  
23 collect voluntary data on how many students experiencing homelessness  
24 or food insecurity are attending the community and technical  
25 colleges;

26 (b) The number of students assisted by the pilot program;

27 (c) Strategies for accommodating students experiencing  
28 homelessness or food insecurity, and former foster care students; and

29 (d) Legislative recommendations for how students experiencing  
30 homelessness or food insecurity, and former foster care students  
31 could be better served.

32 (5) The college districts not selected to participate in the  
33 pilot program are:

34 (a) Invited to participate voluntarily; and

35 (b) Encouraged to submit the data required of the pilot program  
36 participants under subsection (4) of this section, regardless of  
37 participation status.

38 (6) The pilot program expires July 1, (~~2023~~) 2024.

39 (7) This section expires January 1, (~~2024~~) 2025.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.77.850 and 2019 c 330 s 2 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
4 specific purpose, the council shall select (~~(two)~~) four public four-  
5 year institutions of higher education, (~~(one)~~) two on each side of  
6 the crest of the Cascade mountain range, to participate in a pilot  
7 program to provide assistance to students experiencing homelessness  
8 and to students who were in the foster care system when they  
9 graduated high school. The four-year institutions of higher education  
10 chosen to participate in the pilot program must provide certain  
11 accommodations to these students that may include, but are not  
12 limited to, the following:

13       (a) Access to laundry facilities;

14       (b) Access to storage;

15       (c) Access to locker room and shower facilities;

16       (d) Reduced-price meals or meal plans, and access to food banks;

17       (e) Access to technology;

18       (f) Access to short-term housing or housing assistance,  
19 especially during seasonal breaks; and

20       (g) Case management services.

21       (2) The four-year institutions of higher education may also  
22 establish plans to develop surplus property for affordable housing to  
23 accommodate the needs of students experiencing homelessness and  
24 students who were in the foster care system when they graduated high  
25 school.

26       (3) The four-year institutions of higher education participating  
27 in the pilot program shall leverage existing community resources by  
28 making available to students in the pilot program information that is  
29 available for individuals experiencing homelessness, including  
30 through not-for-profit organizations, the local housing authority,  
31 and the department of commerce's office of homeless youth.

32       (4) The four-year institutions of higher education participating  
33 in the pilot program shall provide a joint report to the appropriate  
34 committees of the legislature by December 1, 2023, that includes at  
35 least the following information:

36       (a) The number of students experiencing homelessness or food  
37 insecurity, and the number of students who were in the foster care  
38 system when they graduated high school who were attending a four-year  
39 institution of higher education during the pilot program. The council  
40 shall coordinate with all of the four-year institutions of higher

1 education to collect voluntary data on how many students experiencing  
2 homelessness or food insecurity are attending the four-year  
3 institutions of higher education;

4 (b) The number of students assisted by the pilot program;

5 (c) Strategies for accommodating students experiencing  
6 homelessness or food insecurity, and former foster care students; and

7 (d) Legislative recommendations for how students experiencing  
8 homelessness or food insecurity, and former foster care students  
9 could be better served.

10 (5) The four-year institutions of higher education not selected  
11 to participate in the pilot program are:

12 (a) Invited to participate voluntarily; and

13 (b) Encouraged to submit the data required of the pilot program  
14 participants under subsection (4) of this section, regardless of  
15 participation status.

16 (6) The pilot program expires July 1, (~~2023~~) 2024.

17 (7) This section expires January 1, (~~2024~~) 2025.

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