
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1840

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By House College & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Representatives Ortiz-Self, Callan, Macri, Santos, Orwall, Simmons, Chopp, Slatter, Bergquist, Ryu, Valdez, Pollet, Riccelli, Davis, Harris-Talley, Taylor, and Frame)

READ FIRST TIME 01/31/22.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving diversity, equity, and mental health
2 at the community and technical colleges; amending RCW 28B.50.930;
3 creating new sections; and providing expiration dates.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the legislature's intent to further
6 the effort to make community and technical colleges more welcoming
7 and inclusive for all students by continuing to build on previous
8 legislative efforts to improve diversity, equity, and mental health.
9 Therefore, the legislature intends to establish a task force to
10 partner with the existing efforts that examine the ways that student
11 access to financial resources is more equitable and diverse, and can
12 be improved at the state's community and technical colleges while
13 expanding the pilot program to increase student access to mental
14 health counseling and services. The recommendations are intended for
15 a cohesive, equitable, and informative system.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A task force to review community, state,
17 and federal student financial resources, community outreach, and
18 barriers to accessing needed funds for underrepresented communities
19 is established beginning July 1, 2022.

20 (1) The task force shall include the following members:

1 (a) The president of the senate shall appoint one member from
2 each of the two largest caucuses of the senate and the speaker of the
3 house of representatives shall appoint one member from each of the
4 two largest caucuses of the house of representatives. One of the
5 legislative members must also be a member of the workforce education
6 investment accountability and oversight board under RCW 28C.18.200;

7 (b) The governor shall appoint seven members representing diverse
8 populations in the community and technical college sector from
9 recommendations made by the college board as defined in RCW
10 28B.50.030 as follows:

11 (i) Two community and technical college students from colleges
12 where the student population is predominantly racially diverse and
13 are representative of a systemically minoritized population;

14 (ii) A president of a community or technical college;

15 (iii) A faculty member of a community and technical college
16 faculty collective bargaining unit;

17 (iv) A community or technical college diversity and equity
18 officer;

19 (v) A director of financial aid at a community or technical
20 college; and

21 (vi) A multicultural student services director at a community or
22 technical college;

23 (c) The executive director or designee of the college board as
24 defined in RCW 28B.50.030; and

25 (d) The executive director or designee of the student achievement
26 council under chapter 28B.77 RCW.

27 (2) The task force shall choose its chair from among its
28 membership. The college board shall convene the initial meeting of
29 the task force.

30 (3) The task force shall examine and make recommendations on how
31 equitable access to financial resources can be attained by students,
32 addressing the following:

33 (a) Federal and state financial aid programs;

34 (b) Student supports;

35 (c) Community outreach;

36 (d) Financial education;

37 (e) Community resources; and

38 (f) Barriers to accessing financial resources.

39 (4) Staff support for the task force shall be provided by the
40 college board as defined in RCW 28B.50.030.

1 (5) Legislative members of the task force are reimbursed for
2 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
3 members are not entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses if they
4 are elected officials or are participating on behalf of an employer,
5 governmental entity, or other organization. Any reimbursement for
6 other nonlegislative members is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.

7 (6) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations
8 to the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature in
9 accordance with RCW 43.01.036. The task force shall submit a
10 preliminary report by November 1, 2022, and a final report to the
11 legislature by November 1, 2023.

12 (7) This section expires July 1, 2024.

13 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.50.930 and 2021 c 272 s 6 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
16 specific purpose, the college board shall administer a pilot program
17 to increase student access to mental health counseling and services.

18 (2) The college board, in collaboration with the selection
19 committee, shall select community or technical colleges to
20 participate in the pilot program. For the 2022-23 academic year, the
21 college board shall select an additional four community or technical
22 colleges to participate in the pilot program. At least half of the
23 participating colleges must be located outside of the Puget Sound
24 area. For purposes of this section, "Puget Sound area" means
25 Snohomish, King, Pierce, and Thurston counties. Each participating
26 college must receive a grant to implement one or more strategies to
27 increase student access to mental health counseling and services,
28 including substance use disorder counseling and services.

29 (3)(a) A selection committee consisting of the following shall
30 assist with the application selection process:

31 (i) One community or technical college president;

32 (ii) One community or technical college vice president for
33 student services or student instruction;

34 (iii) Two faculty counselors employed at a community or technical
35 college; and

36 (iv) One community or technical college student.

37 (b) The selection committee may consult with representatives of
38 an entity within a college or university that has expertise in

1 suicide prevention and the department of health in developing
2 selection criteria.

3 (4) Community and technical colleges wishing to participate in
4 the pilot program shall apply to the college board. Applicants must
5 identify opportunities for expanding on-campus mental health
6 counseling and services. Applicants must also show a commitment to
7 further develop partnerships by engaging external community
8 providers, including those who provide crisis services and substance
9 use disorder treatment and counseling. Applications that demonstrate
10 plans to include one or more of the following strategies recommended
11 by the community and technical college counselors task force must be
12 prioritized:

13 (a) Improve equity, diversity, and inclusion of all races in
14 counseling services, such as by diversifying the counselor workforce
15 by adopting equity-centered recruiting, training, and retention
16 practices or by providing equity training and awareness for all
17 counselors;

18 (b) Meet mental health needs of students through an all-campus
19 effort;

20 (c) Engage students to help increase mental health and counseling
21 awareness and promote help-seeking behavior through student groups
22 and other methods;

23 (d) Increase the visibility of counseling services on campus;

24 (e) Increase or expand external partnerships with community
25 service providers;

26 (f) Adopt the use of telebehavioral health, especially in
27 underresourced communities;

28 (g) Develop an assessment of counseling services to inform
29 improvements and ensure counseling services are meeting student
30 needs; or

31 (h) Implement counseling approaches grounded in theory that have
32 evidence of being effective.

33 (5) Colleges selected to participate in the pilot program that
34 use grant funding to hire additional mental health counselors must
35 hire counselors who have specific graduate-level training for meeting
36 the mental and behavioral health needs of students.

37 (6) Colleges selected to participate in the pilot program shall
38 submit a joint report to the appropriate committees of the
39 legislature and in accordance with RCW 43.01.036 by November 1, 2023.
40 The report must include:

1 (a) Information on which colleges were selected for the pilot
2 program, how much grant funding was received per college, and what
3 strategies each implemented to increase student access to mental
4 health counseling and services;

5 (b) Demographic data of students accessing mental health
6 counseling and services, including those students who are considered
7 underrepresented or traditionally have limited access to mental
8 health counseling and services;

9 (c) Whether the mental health counseling and services provided
10 are meeting the demand of students in terms of type and availability,
11 and whether the various types of mental health counseling and
12 services are being provided by community providers versus on-campus
13 services;

14 (d) Information and data on the effectiveness, including cost-
15 effectiveness, of each strategy used to increase student access to
16 mental health counseling and services, including substance use
17 disorder counseling and services, such as the number of additional
18 students served, reduced wait times for counseling appointments, or
19 other data that reflects expanded access; and

20 (e) Lessons learned and recommendations for improving student
21 access to mental health counseling and services at community and
22 technical colleges and to community providers, including whether
23 there were any strategies implemented that proved more effective than
24 others in increasing access.

25 (7) Colleges selected for the pilot program shall conspicuously
26 post on their websites and include in the report to the legislature
27 the definitions for key terms including: Diversity, equity,
28 inclusion, culturally competent, culturally appropriate, historically
29 marginalized communities, communities of color, low-income
30 communities, and community organizations.

31 (8) The pilot program expires July 1, (~~2025~~) 2026.

32 (9) This section expires January 1, (~~2026~~) 2027.

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