

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5110

As of January 14, 2025

Title: An act relating to tuition waivers for tribal elders at Washington's community and technical colleges.

Brief Description: Providing tuition waivers for tribal elders at Washington's community and technical colleges.

Sponsors: Senator Kauffman; by request of State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Higher Education & Workforce Development: 1/16/25.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Establishes a waiver for all or a portion of tuition fees and services and activity fees for tribal elders.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Staff: Kellee Gunn

Background: Waivers. Institutions of higher education may waive tuition, student and activities fees, or both, if a student meets certain criteria. Waivers fall into three main categories:

- those required by law;
- those required by the school or the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges; and
- optional waivers that the institution may choose to offer.

Some waivers are subject to a cap on the amount that may be waived.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Federally Recognized Indian Tribes. There are 29 federally recognized tribes throughout Washington and they are: Chehalis, Colville, Cowlitz, Hoh, Jamestown S'Klallam, Kalispel, Lower Elwha Klallam, Lummi, Makah, Muckleshoot, Nisqually, Nooksack, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Puyallup, Quileute, Quinault, Samish, Sauk-Suiattle, Shoalwater Bay, Skokomish, Snoqualmie, Spokane, Squaxin Island, Stillaguamish, Suquamish, Swinomish, Tulalip, Upper Skagit, and Yakama.

Summary of Bill: Each community and technical college may waive all or a portion of tuition fees and services and activity fees for tribal elders over the age of 55 from federally recognized Indian tribes.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.