
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1486

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By House Postsecondary Education & Workforce (originally sponsored by Representatives Salahuddin, Pollet, Doglio, Davis, Reed, Ramel, Goodman, Peterson, Nance, Scott, Hill, and Simmons)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to adding a student member to the state board for
2 community and technical colleges; amending RCW 28B.50.050 and
3 28B.50.070; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that the
6 decisions made by the state board for community and technical
7 colleges greatly impact the lives and education experiences of
8 students and that student participation in the decision-making
9 process can provide meaningful insight into the impact of these
10 decisions from the student perspective, which is unique compared to
11 the perspective of traditional board members.

12 The legislature finds that students have served on higher
13 education-related governing boards in Washington state and other
14 states for decades. Specifically, students serve on the governing
15 boards of systems of community and technical colleges in over 10
16 other states. Students also serve as voting members on both the
17 Washington student achievement council and the workforce education
18 investment accountability and oversight board. These opportunities
19 have provided students the opportunity to contribute greatly to
20 deliberations where they have been able to share ideas and concerns
21 on decisions that directly impact students.

1 The legislature further finds that student perspectives offer the
2 opportunity to bring the state board for community and technical
3 colleges closer to the student community that it serves. Being on
4 campus and in class every day, students are exposed directly to many
5 topics of interest to the board, which is important for comprehensive
6 and in-depth discussion. Moreover, student populations at community
7 and technical colleges are the most diverse of any institution of
8 higher education in the state, and thus the student member would be
9 exposed to a more diverse group than any other member of the board
10 representing any one group of the community.

11 Additionally, the legislature acknowledges that student positions
12 on governing boards are also a valuable tool for developing
13 leadership through experiential learning. Student members learn
14 processes of institutional governance, analyze policy proposals, and
15 participate in board discussions and decision making.

16 Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to enhance
17 community college governance by the state board of community and
18 technical colleges through fostering a stronger relationship with
19 students in policy development and decision making at the state
20 level.

21 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.50.050 and 1991 c 238 s 30 are each amended to
22 read as follows:

23 (1) There is hereby created the "state board for community and
24 technical colleges", to consist of ~~((nine))~~ 10 members who represent
25 the geographic diversity of the state, and who shall be appointed by
26 the governor, with the consent of the senate. At least two members
27 shall reside east of the Cascade mountains. In making these
28 appointments, the governor shall attempt to provide geographic
29 balance and give consideration to representing labor, business,
30 women, and racial and ethnic minorities, among the membership of the
31 board. At least one member of the board shall be from business and at
32 least one member of the board shall be from labor. ~~((The current
33 members of the state board for community college education on
34 September 1, 1991, shall serve on the state board for community and
35 technical colleges until their terms expire. Successors to these
36 members shall be appointed according to the terms of this section. A
37 ninth member shall be appointed by September 1, 1991, for a complete
38 term))~~ One member of the board shall be a student enrolled at a
39 community or technical college.

1 (2) The ((successors of the)) members ((initially appointed)),
2 except for the student member, shall be appointed for terms of four
3 years except that a person appointed to fill a vacancy occurring
4 prior to the expiration of any term shall be appointed only for the
5 remainder of such term. The student member shall serve for a term of
6 one year. The student member must be at least 18 years of age at the
7 time of appointment. Each member shall serve until the appointment
8 and qualification of his or her successor. All members shall be
9 citizens and bona fide residents of the state.

10 (3) Members of the college board shall be compensated in
11 accordance with RCW 43.03.240 and shall receive reimbursement for
12 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 for
13 each day actually spent in attending to the duties as a member of the
14 college board.

15 (4) The members of the college board may be removed by the
16 governor for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office,
17 in the manner provided by RCW 28B.10.500.

18 (5) A student appointed under this section shall excuse themself
19 from participating or voting on matters relating to hiring,
20 discipline, personnel, or issues pertaining to pending litigation.

21 (6) The college board may adopt rules to implement this section.

22 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.50.070 and 1987 c 505 s 15 are each amended to
23 read as follows:

24 The governor shall make the appointments to the college board.

25 The college board shall organize, adopt a seal, and adopt bylaws
26 for its administration, not inconsistent herewith, as it may deem
27 expedient and may from time to time amend such bylaws. Annually the
28 board shall elect a chairperson and vice chairperson; all to serve
29 until their successors are appointed and qualified. The college board
30 shall at its initial meeting fix a date and place for its regular
31 meeting. ~~((Five))~~ Six members shall constitute a quorum, and no
32 meeting shall be held with less than a quorum present, and no action
33 shall be taken by less than a majority of the college board.

34 Special meetings may be called as provided by its rules and
35 regulations. Regular meetings shall be held at the college board's
36 established offices in Olympia, but whenever the convenience of the
37 public or of the parties may be promoted, or delay or expenses may be
38 prevented, it may hold its meetings, hearings or proceedings at any
39 other place designated by it. Subject to RCW 40.07.040, the college

1 board shall transmit a report in writing to the governor biennially
2 which report shall contain such information as may be requested by
3 the governor. The fiscal year of the college board shall conform to
4 the fiscal year of the state.

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