
HOUSE BILL 2535

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Representatives Reeves, Macri, Parshley, Pollet, Ramel, and Scott

Read first time 01/16/26. Referred to Committee on Postsecondary Education & Workforce.

1 AN ACT Relating to access at public postsecondary educational
2 institutions to medication abortion; and adding a new chapter to
3 Title 28B RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds and declares the
6 following:

7 (1) Access to abortion is a human right, an integral part of
8 essential health care, and vital for promoting public health.

9 (2) There are approximately 196,000 pregnancy capable students
10 attending Washington's public institutions of higher education and
11 many of these students need access to abortion services each year. A
12 central mission of Washington's student health centers serving these
13 institutions is to minimize the negative impact of health concerns on
14 students' studies and to facilitate retention and graduation.

15 (3) Students seeking pregnancy termination face substantial
16 travel, financial, and logistical barriers. Students must travel as
17 far as 78 miles, or over four hours on public transit, round trip to
18 the nearest abortion-providing facility, and the average wait time
19 for an appointment is 10 days. The supreme court *Dobbs v. Jackson*
20 *women's health organization* decision has increased the burden on
21 abortion-providing facilities in the state, meaning longer wait times

1 for students needing to access care. A 2024 report from senator Maria
2 Cantwell's office states that clinics in Oregon have already seen a
3 50 percent increase in patients from Washington state traveling for
4 abortion care, and the average wait times in Washington for abortion
5 appointments in a Seattle area clinic have already increased by one
6 week due to the influx of patients traveling from out of state. These
7 financial and time burdens negatively impact academic performance,
8 mental health, and physical health.

9 (4) Though many of Washington's public institutions of higher
10 education have student health centers, only one campus student health
11 center currently offers medical abortion services and only one other
12 is known to be in the process of implementing abortion services.
13 Medication abortion is extremely safe, efficacious, and cost-
14 effective. Research shows that the provision of medication abortion
15 in student health centers is safe, effective, and feasible.

16 (5) Because medication abortion is recognized as a safe and
17 effective treatment for pregnancy termination and a health service
18 every pregnant person in the state has the legal right to choose, it
19 is the intent of the legislature that public institutions of higher
20 education make medication abortion as accessible and cost-effective
21 for students as possible.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
23 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
24 otherwise.

25 (1) "Council" means the Washington student achievement council as
26 defined in RCW 28B.77.010.

27 (2) "Medication abortion" has the same meaning as
28 "abortion medications" in RCW 69.41.050.

29 (3) "Public institution of higher education" or "public
30 institutions of higher education" means institutions of higher
31 education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016.

32 (4) "Safety net abortion provider" means an abortion provider
33 contracted with the department of health's sexual and reproductive
34 health program.

35 (5) "Student health center" means a clinic or health center
36 providing physical health care services to students operated by
37 public institutions of higher education.

1 NEW SECTION.

Sec. 3.

(1)(a) By the start of the 2027-28
2 academic year, each student health center must offer access to
3 medication abortion through:

4 (i) A public program that connects patients in Washington to
5 reproductive health services;

6 (ii) A formal agreement with a safety net abortion provider with
7 telehealth capabilities; or

8 (iii) Other available methods.

9 (b) Student health centers that do not offer medication abortion
10 services prior to the effective date of this section must utilize the
11 most cost-effective option to offer medication abortion services.

12 (2) By the start of the 2027-28 academic year, each public
13 institution of higher education that does not operate a student
14 health center must provide information and referral services for
15 medication abortion to students seeking such services. The
16 institution must train current student support staff on the
17 availability of public resources to refer students to, including
18 existing:

19 (a) Directories of qualified health care providers who can
20 lawfully administer medication abortion;

21 (b) Private and accessible space on campus for the student to
22 participate in telehealth appointments;

23 (c) Student technical support to participate in telehealth
24 appointments; and

25 (d) Student access to electronic devices to participate in
26 telehealth appointments.

27 (3)(a) All public institutions of higher education must maintain
28 a comprehensive health services webpage on an existing website that
29 provides clear, accessible information and resources regarding
30 reproductive health services including, but not limited to, prenatal
31 care and options for pregnancy termination.

32 (b) The webpage must include:

33 (i) Detailed instructions for scheduling appointments, with
34 contact information for both pregnancy-related services and
35 behavioral health services;

36 (ii) Links and contact information for existing campus resources
37 that assist students in requesting academic accommodations, including
38 absences, rescheduling exams, or adjusting other academic
39 requirements due to pregnancy, recovery from medical treatment, or
40 related conditions; and

1 (iii) An unbroken link and accurate description that directs
2 students to the abortion page of the sexual and reproductive health
3 section of the department of health's website.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act
5 constitute a new chapter in Title 28B RCW.

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