
HOUSE BILL 2589

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Representative Leavitt

Read first time 01/20/26. Referred to Committee on Postsecondary Education & Workforce.

1 AN ACT Relating to encampments at institutions of higher
2 education; and adding a new section to chapter 28B.10 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) No person or organization may use an institution of higher
7 education's campus to camp, except as provided in subsection (2) of
8 this section.

9 (2) An individual or organization wishing to establish an
10 encampment on an institution of higher education's campus shall
11 notify the institution 21 days prior to the establishment of the
12 encampment. Only registered student organizations in good standing or
13 recognized bargaining units may request authorization for and take
14 part in encampments under this subsection. An institution may
15 authorize or deny the encampment request based on the time, place, or
16 manner of the encampment in a content-neutral process to prevent
17 disruption to education and other institutional activities. Any
18 permitted encampment must serve an academic purpose.

19 (3) If an individual or organization violates an institution of
20 higher education's policies on encampments, a representative from the
21 institution shall:

1 (a) Direct the individual or organization to immediately
2 dismantle the encampment and vacate the institution's campus;
3 (b) Inform the individual or organization that any individual who
4 fails to comply with the direction is guilty of criminal trespass;
5 (c) Report the trespass to local law enforcement to begin legal
6 action and have the individual or organization removed from the
7 campus; and
8 (d) Initiate disciplinary action against any student who refuses
9 to comply with the direction to dismantle the encampment and vacate
10 the campus according to the institution's student code of conduct.
11 (4) A law enforcement agency, peace officer, or institutional
12 campus security may remove an encampment and any individual or
13 organization from the campus who has violated the prohibition on
14 encampments and refuses to comply with the direction to leave
15 described in this section, in accordance with local laws and
16 ordinances.
17 (5) An individual is liable for all damages caused by their
18 unauthorized encampment, including the direct and indirect costs of:
19 (a) Removing the encampment and restoring the campus; and
20 (b) Repairing any destruction, defacement, or alteration of the
21 institution's property that results from the individual's intentional
22 or negligent conduct relating to the encampment.
23 (6) Institutions of higher education shall adopt rules to
24 implement this section.
25 (7) For purposes of this section:
26 (a) "Encampment" means a temporary shelter, including tents and
27 outdoor encampments, that is installed on the campus of any
28 institution of higher education; and
29 (b) "Institution of higher education" has the same meaning as in
30 RCW 28B.92.030.

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