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**SENATE BILL 5607**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Warnick and Hasegawa

Read first time 01/31/25. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to free speech information for students at  
2 institutions of higher education; adding a new section to chapter  
3 28B.10 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that freedom of  
6 speech is central to a college's or university's central functions of  
7 teaching, learning, research, and scholarship. Moreover, the  
8 legislature finds that expression of the widest range of viewpoints  
9 should be encouraged, free from institutional orthodoxy and internal  
10 or external coercion. Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature  
11 that all students at the state's institutions of higher education  
12 participate in a course of instruction about the rights afforded to  
13 individuals through the first amendment and the institutions'  
14 policies to encourage the practice of free speech on the college's or  
15 university's campuses.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10  
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 Beginning with the 2025-26 academic year, each institution of  
19 higher education shall take reasonable steps to ensure that the  
20 institution of higher education presents, and each incoming student

1 participates in, a free speech fundamentals workshop. Each  
2 institution of higher education is encouraged to present the workshop  
3 during student orientation or as early as possible in the academic  
4 year. The scope of the workshop must include: Instruction on each  
5 institution of higher education's academic freedom and free speech  
6 policies; potential examples of violations of free speech policies;  
7 and the types of speech that are protected. Each institution of  
8 higher education is strongly encouraged to use course material  
9 developed in consultation with experts in constitutional law and  
10 freedom of speech.

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