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**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5663**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Senators Slatter, Nobles, Frame, Lovick, and Valdez)

READ FIRST TIME 02/18/25.

1       AN ACT Relating to entirely online course offerings at community  
2 and technical colleges; adding a new section to chapter 28B.50 RCW;  
3 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 the community  
6 and technical college system is an important conduit to our  
7 communities and is a key for the state to meet the 70 percent  
8 credential goal and to fill workforce gaps. The state of Washington  
9 is in the middle of a workforce and affordability crisis. Flexible,  
10 online, affordable options are an essential part of the solution.  
11 Allowing colleges to reach students regarding entirely online course  
12 offerings outside their district is a first step in creating a  
13 virtual campus. A virtual campus, like what California community  
14 colleges have created, would provide students affordable options  
15 without having to move or find transportation. Students in Washington  
16 state should have a single place where they can register for online  
17 classes and cross enroll. A virtual campus would help students  
18 upskill or reskill and allow for students to have access to online  
19 classes needed for their degree when they live out-of-district.

20       The legislature further finds that Washington state cannot afford  
21 to leave talent on the sidelines. Washington state needs skilled

1 workers, and it should not matter where a student lives to receive  
2 the right education. Therefore, the legislature intends that, by  
3 allowing respective community and technical colleges to reach  
4 students out-of-district, a conversation can begin around  
5 establishing a virtual campus for all Washingtonians.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) Community and technical colleges may distribute information  
9 on their respective colleges outside of their district when it  
10 pertains to entirely online course offerings. Information provided by  
11 community and technical colleges may include unsolicited course and  
12 enrollment information. In providing this information, community and  
13 technical colleges may use, but are not limited to: Digital  
14 advertising, email, direct mail, newspaper advertisements, newspaper  
15 inserts, and other methods of mass distribution to those outside of a  
16 college district.

17 (2) Community and technical colleges may prioritize and make  
18 known to the citizens of its district courses and programs offered  
19 exclusively by neighboring districts.

20 (3) Community and technical colleges may not compete with each  
21 other for enrollment.

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