

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**HOUSE BILL 1556**

Chapter 42, Laws of 2025

69th Legislature  
2025 Regular Session

COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES—TUITION WAIVERS FOR HIGH SCHOOL  
COMPLETERS—AGE

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 27, 2025

Passed by the House March 5, 2025  
Yeas 97 Nays 0

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LAURIE JINKINS

**Speaker of the House of  
Representatives**

Passed by the Senate April 2, 2025  
Yeas 49 Nays 0

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DENNY HECK

**President of the Senate**

Approved April 11, 2025 11:21 AM

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **HOUSE BILL 1556** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

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BERNARD DEAN

**Chief Clerk**

FILED

April 14, 2025

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BOB FERGUSON

**Governor of the State of Washington**

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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HOUSE BILL 1556

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Passed Legislature - 2025 Regular Session

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Entenman, Davis, Leavitt, Ortiz-Self, Reed, Kloba, Pollet, Hill, and Simmons; by request of State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

Read first time 01/23/25. Referred to Committee on Postsecondary Education & Workforce.

1 AN ACT Relating to tuition waivers for high school completers at  
2 community and technical colleges; and amending RCW 28B.15.520.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.15.520 and 2015 c 55 s 217 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 Subject to the limitations of RCW 28B.15.910, the governing  
7 boards of the community and technical colleges:

8 (1) May waive all or a portion of tuition fees and services and  
9 activities fees for students (~~nineteen years of age or older~~) who  
10 are eligible for resident tuition and fee rates as defined in RCW  
11 28B.15.012 through 28B.15.015, who enroll in a course of study or  
12 program which will enable them to finish their high school education  
13 and obtain a high school diploma or certificate, but who are not  
14 eligible students as defined by RCW 28A.600.405;

15 (2)(a) Shall waive all of tuition fees and services and  
16 activities fees for:

17 (i) Children of any law enforcement officer as defined in chapter  
18 41.26 RCW, firefighter as defined in chapter 41.26 or 41.24 RCW, or  
19 Washington state patrol officer who lost his or her life or became  
20 totally disabled in the line of duty while employed by any public law  
21 enforcement agency or full time or volunteer fire department in this

1 state: PROVIDED, That such persons may receive the waiver only if  
2 they begin their course of study at a community or technical college  
3 within ten years of their graduation from high school; and

4 (ii) Surviving spouses of any law enforcement officer as defined  
5 in chapter 41.26 RCW, firefighter as defined in chapter 41.26 or  
6 41.24 RCW, or Washington state patrol officer who lost his or her  
7 life or became totally disabled in the line of duty while employed by  
8 any public law enforcement agency or full time or volunteer fire  
9 department in this state.

10 (b) For the purposes of this section, "totally disabled" means a  
11 person who has become totally and permanently disabled for life by  
12 bodily injury or disease, and is thereby prevented from performing  
13 any occupation or gainful pursuit.

14 (c) The governing boards of the community and technical colleges  
15 shall report to the state board for community and technical colleges  
16 on the annual cost of tuition fees and services and activities fees  
17 waived for surviving spouses and children under (a) of this  
18 subsection. The state board for community and technical colleges  
19 shall consolidate the reports of the waived fees and annually report  
20 to the appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the legislature;  
21 and

22 (3) May waive all or a portion of the nonresident tuition fees  
23 differential for:

24 (a) Nonresident students enrolled in a community or technical  
25 college course of study or program which will enable them to finish  
26 their high school education and obtain a high school diploma or  
27 certificate but who are not eligible students as defined by RCW  
28 28A.600.405. The waiver shall be in effect only for those courses  
29 which lead to a high school diploma or certificate; and

30 (b) Up to forty percent of the students enrolled in the regional  
31 education program for deaf students, subject to federal funding of  
32 such program.

Passed by the House March 5, 2025.  
Passed by the Senate April 2, 2025.  
Approved by the Governor April 11, 2025.  
Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 14, 2025.

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