

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1462

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**As Reported By House Committee On:**  
Higher Education

**Title:** An act relating to higher education tuition.

**Brief Description:** Setting nonresident undergraduate tuition at the University of Washington.

**Sponsors:** Representative Huff.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Higher Education: 2/11/97, 2/12/97, 2/20/97 [DPS].

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

**Majority Report:** The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Carlson, Chairman; Radcliff, Vice Chairman; Mason, Ranking Minority Member; Kenney, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Butler; Dunn; O'Brien; Sheahan and Van Luven.

**Staff:** Suzi Morrissey (786-7120).

**Background:** During the 1996-97 academic year, the tuition rate for nonresident undergraduate students enrolled at the University of Washington and Washington State University are \$9,491. This rate represents approximately 137 percent of the cost of educating these students. In *An Overview of Tuition in Washington*, the Higher Education Coordinating Board reported that during the 1995-96 academic year, tuition rates for nonresident undergraduates attending the University of Washington's peer institutions were an average of 16.2 percent higher than the tuition rate charged by the University of Washington. The average tuition rates charged to nonresident undergraduate students at Washington State University's peers were an average of 4.6 percent higher than the rates at Washington State University during the same academic year.

The University of Washington has requested a tuition increase of 8.3 percent for nonresident undergraduate students for each of the next two academic years.

**Summary of Substitute Bill:** At the University of Washington, tuition for nonresident undergraduate students and other nonresident students who are not enrolled in graduate or first professional programs will be \$10,278 for the 1997-98 academic year and \$11,130 for the 1998-99 academic year.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** Technical corrections were adopted to ensure that rates for other student categories were not affected by the rates adopted for nonresident students.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 29, 1997.

**Effective Date of Substitute Bill:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** The University of Washington offers students a world-class education. Many nonresident students who apply are also considering enrollment in prestigious and expensive independent colleges. The tuition rates proposed in this legislation are close to the average nonresident rates at the University of Washington's peers. The rates are considerably lower than tuition rates at most comparable independent colleges. Revenue from this increase will be used to improve quality and course access for resident students.

**Testimony Against:** Nonresident students provide a perspective and diversity that enriches the education of all students. Tuition rates for the University of Washington's nonresident undergraduates have climbed steeply in recent years. The substantial tuition increase proposed in this legislation may cause some of the nonresident students currently enrolled to drop out of school. In addition, this method of setting tuition is not predictable or stable. Finally, tuition rates at the University of Washington and Washington State University should not be decoupled.

**Testified:** Representative Tom Huff, prime sponsor (pro); John Linder, President of Associated Students, University of Washington (con); Sherry Burkey, University of Washington (pro); Judy Nicastro, student, University of Washington (con); Sumeer Singla, Washington Student Lobby, (con); Ronald Dear, faculty member, University of Washington (pro); and Richard McCormick, President, University of Washington (pro).