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SENATE BILL 5237

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Winsley, Goings, Roach, Oke, Swecker, Rasmussen,  
T. Sheldon, Hale and Benton

Read first time 01/18/1999. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to veterans' exemptions from higher education  
2 tuition and fees; amending RCW 28B.15.620 and 28B.15.628; providing  
3 expiration dates; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.15.620 and 1995 c 349 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 (1) The legislature finds that military and naval veterans who have  
8 served their country in wars on foreign soil have risked their own  
9 lives to defend both the lives of all Americans and the freedoms that  
10 define and distinguish our nation. The legislature also finds that  
11 veterans of the Vietnam conflict suffered during and after the war as  
12 the country anguished over its involvement in the conflict. It is the  
13 intent of the legislature to honor Vietnam veterans for the public  
14 service they have provided to their country. It is the further intent  
15 of the legislature that, for eligible Vietnam veterans, colleges and  
16 universities waive tuition and fee increases that have occurred since  
17 October 1, 1977.

18 (2) Subject to the limitations of RCW 28B.15.910, the governing  
19 boards of the state universities, the regional universities, The

1 Evergreen State College, and the community colleges may exempt veterans  
2 of the Vietnam conflict who have served in the southeast Asia theater  
3 of operations from the payment of all or a portion of any increase in  
4 tuition and fees that occur after October 1, 1977, if the veteran  
5 qualifies as a resident student under RCW 28B.15.012.

6 (3) For the purposes of this section, "veterans of the Vietnam  
7 conflict" shall be those persons who have been on active federal  
8 service as a member of the armed military or naval forces of the United  
9 States between a period commencing August 5, 1964, and ending on May 7,  
10 1975.

11 (4) This section (~~shall~~) expires June 30, (~~1999~~) 2004.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.15.628 and 1996 c 169 s 1 are each amended to read  
13 as follows:

14 (1) The legislature finds that military and naval veterans who have  
15 served their country in wars on foreign soil have risked their own  
16 lives to defend both the lives of all Americans and the freedoms that  
17 define and distinguish our nation. It is the intent of the legislature  
18 to honor Persian Gulf combat zone veterans for the public service they  
19 have provided to their country. It is the further intent of the  
20 legislature that, for eligible Persian Gulf combat zone veterans,  
21 institutions of higher education waive tuition and fee increases that  
22 have occurred after the 1990-91 academic year.

23 (2) Subject to the limitations of RCW 28B.15.910, the governing  
24 boards of the state universities, the regional universities, The  
25 Evergreen State College, and the community colleges may exempt veterans  
26 of the Persian Gulf combat zone from all or a portion of increases in  
27 tuition and fees that occur after the 1990-91 academic year, if the  
28 veteran could have qualified as a Washington resident student under RCW  
29 28B.15.012(2), had he or she been enrolled as a student on August 1,  
30 1990.

31 (3) For the purposes of this section, "a veteran of the Persian  
32 Gulf combat zone" means a person who served on active duty in the armed  
33 forces of the United States during any portion of the 1991 calendar  
34 year in the Persian Gulf combat zone as designated by executive order  
35 of the president of the United States.

36 (4) This section expires June 30, (~~1999~~) 2004.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    This act is necessary for the immediate  
2    preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
3    state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
4    immediately.

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