
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5135

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Senators Carlson, Kohl-Welles, West, Horn, Schmidt and Rossi)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/03.

1 AN ACT Relating to increased tuition fees for excess credits taken
2 at institutions of higher education; and adding new sections to chapter
3 28B.15 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.15 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) For the purposes of this section, "cost of instruction" means
8 the average instructional support in state general funds and operating
9 fees per full-time equivalent undergraduate, at each respective
10 institution for the prior academic year, as disclosed by the higher
11 education coordinating board under RCW 28B.10.044.

12 (2)(a) For resident undergraduate students who have accumulated
13 more than one hundred twenty percent of the number of credits required
14 to complete their respective baccalaureate degree at a state
15 university, regional university, or The Evergreen State College,
16 tuition fees shall equal a sum not less than the cost of instruction.

17 (b) For resident undergraduate students who have accumulated more
18 than one hundred fifty percent of the number of credits required to

1 complete their respective associate degree or certificate programs at
2 a state community or technical college, tuition fees shall equal a sum
3 not less than the cost of instruction.

4 (3)(a) For nonresident undergraduate students who have accumulated
5 more than one hundred twenty percent of the number of credits required
6 to complete their respective baccalaureate degree at a state
7 university, regional university, or The Evergreen State College,
8 tuition fees shall equal a sum not less than twice the cost of
9 instruction.

10 (b) For nonresident undergraduate students who have accumulated
11 more than one hundred fifty percent of the number of credits required
12 to complete their respective associate degree or certificate programs
13 at a state community or technical college, tuition fees shall equal a
14 sum not less than twice the cost of instruction.

15 (4) The following exceptions apply to subsections (2) and (3) of
16 this section:

17 (a) Credits earned at private institutions of higher education in
18 the state of Washington, at public or private institutions of higher
19 education in other states, or through advanced placement programs shall
20 not be applied to the total accumulated for the purposes of this
21 section;

22 (b) For former community college students who transfer, credits
23 earned at a community college that are in excess of the credits
24 necessary to complete an associate degree shall not be applied to the
25 baccalaureate total;

26 (c) This section shall not apply to any dislocated worker as
27 defined by RCW 50.04.075 or to any person engaging in a job training
28 program under the purview of the work force training and education
29 coordinating board;

30 (d) This section shall not apply to students who are enrolled in
31 institutionally established double-degree programs;

32 (e) This section shall not apply to students participating in the
33 border county higher education opportunity project under RCW
34 28B.80.806;

35 (f) This section shall not apply to certificated teachers of the K-
36 12 school system who are pursuing continuing education credits
37 according to certification requirements;

1 (g) This section shall not apply to students who have not been
2 enrolled in an institution of higher education during the preceding
3 five or more years.

4 (4) Students who believe they are under extraordinary or unforeseen
5 academic or personal circumstances or were unable to complete their
6 baccalaureate degree program within the number of credits specified due
7 to institutional constraints may petition the institution for a special
8 waiver from the tuition provision of subsections (2) and (3) of this
9 section. The governing board of each institution shall create a
10 process through which student petitions may be fairly processed, heard,
11 and determined. The process shall include a fifty-dollar
12 administrative fee that is refundable for those students who make a
13 successful appeal.

14 (5) For students unable to enroll in a class required for the
15 student's major due to the sequencing of courses, the institution must
16 waive tuition and fees until the student is able to enroll in the
17 required course.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.15 RCW
19 to read as follows:

20 The general fund--state appropriation may not be reduced by the
21 amount of operating fees revenue collected as a result of section 1 of
22 this act.

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