
Higher Education Committee

SSB 5101

Brief Description: Expanding higher education tuition waivers to include certain certificated instructional staff.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Senators Hobbs, McAuliffe, Fairley, Weinstein, Marr, Shin, Oemig, Fraser, Kline, Regala, Rasmussen, Tom, Kohl-Welles and Haugen).

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Expands eligibility for state employee college tuition waivers to include public school teachers and certificated instructional staff who hold, or are seeking, an endorsement and assignment in a state-identified shortage area.

Hearing Date: 3/21/07

Staff: Andrew Colvin (786-7304).

Background:

Washington State institutions of higher education may waive all or a portion of tuition, services, and activity fees for state employees. "State employees" are defined as permanent classified state employees; state, county, or municipal employees governed by the chapter on collective bargaining; permanent classified and exempt paraprofessional employees at technical colleges; and faculty, counselors, librarians, and exempt professional and administrative employees at institutions of higher education.

The employees are enrolled on a space available basis and are charged a registration fee of at least \$5. Their enrollment information is not included in official enrollment reports.

Summary of Bill:

Teachers and certificated instructional staff at public common schools and vocational schools are included within the definition of "state employees" for purposes of college tuition waivers for

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state employees. In order to be eligible for a tuition waiver, the teacher or staff must hold, or be seeking, a valid endorsement and assignment in a state-identified shortage area.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.