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HOUSE BILL 2344

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Representative Haigh

1 AN ACT Relating to resident undergraduate tuition; and amending RCW  
2 28B.15.068.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.15.068 and 2007 c 151 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) Beginning with the ((2007-08)) 2009-10 academic year and ending  
7 with the 2016-17 academic year, tuition fees charged to full-time  
8 resident undergraduate students ((may increase no greater than seven  
9 percent over the previous academic year in any institution of higher  
10 education. Annual reductions or increases in full time tuition fees  
11 for resident undergraduate students)) in any institution of higher  
12 education shall be as provided in the omnibus appropriations act((  
13 within the seven percent increase limit established in this section)).  
14 To the extent that state appropriations combined with tuition and fee  
15 revenues are insufficient to achieve the total per-student funding  
16 goals established in subsection (2) of this section, the legislature  
17 may revisit state appropriations, authorized enrollment levels, and  
18 changes in tuition fees for any given fiscal year.

1           (2) The state shall adopt as its goal total per-student funding  
2 levels, from state appropriations plus tuition and fees, of at least  
3 the sixtieth percentile of total per-student funding at similar public  
4 institutions of higher education in the global challenge states. In  
5 defining comparable per-student funding levels, the office of financial  
6 management shall adjust for regional cost-of-living differences; for  
7 differences in program offerings and in the relative mix of lower  
8 division, upper division, and graduate students; and for accounting and  
9 reporting differences among the comparison institutions. The office of  
10 financial management shall develop a funding trajectory for each four-  
11 year institution of higher education and for the community and  
12 technical college system as a whole that when combined with tuition and  
13 fees revenue allows the state to achieve its funding goal for each  
14 four-year institution and the community and technical college system as  
15 a whole no later than fiscal year 2017. The state shall not reduce  
16 enrollment levels below fiscal year 2007 budgeted levels in order to  
17 improve or alter the per-student funding amount at any four-year  
18 institution of higher education or the community and technical college  
19 system as a whole. The state recognizes that each four-year  
20 institution of higher education and the community and technical college  
21 system as a whole have different funding requirements to achieve  
22 desired performance levels, and that increases to the total per-student  
23 funding amount may need to exceed the minimum funding goal.

24           (3) By September 1st of each year beginning [in] 2008, the office  
25 of financial management shall report to the governor, the higher  
26 education coordinating board, and appropriate committees of the  
27 legislature with updated estimates of the total per-student funding  
28 level that represents the sixtieth percentile of funding for comparable  
29 institutions of higher education in the global challenge states, and  
30 the progress toward that goal that was made for each of the public  
31 institutions of higher education.

32           (4) As used in this section, "global challenge states" are the top  
33 performing states on the new economy index published by the progressive  
34 policy institute as of July 22, 2007. The new economy index ranks  
35 states on indicators of their potential to compete in the new economy.  
36 At least once every five years, the office of financial management  
37 shall determine if changes to the list of global challenge states are

1 appropriate. The office of financial management shall report its  
2 findings to the governor and the legislature.

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