

FINAL BILL REPORT

SB 5318

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Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Removing the one-year waiting period for veterans or active members of the military for purposes of eligibility for resident tuition.

Sponsors: Senators Bailey, Becker, Roach, Hobbs, Holmquist Newbry, Honeyford, Hill, Chase, Billig, Kline, Cleveland, Carrell and Shin.

Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate Committee on Ways & Means
House Committee on Higher Education
House Committee on Appropriations

Background: In Washington, as in most other states, establishing residency for tuition purposes at public institutions of higher education has two components: the establishment of an official domicile, and a waiting period of one year after establishing a domicile. A collection of evidence is required to prove an individual's domicile. Individuals can only have one legal domicile in the U.S. at one time.

In current law, the term resident student covers many different types of active military duty students, spouses, and dependents, including the following:

- a student who is on active military duty stationed in the state or who is a member of the Washington National Guard;
- a student who is the spouse or a dependent of a person who is on active military duty stationed in the state;
- a student who resides in Washington and is the spouse or a dependent of a person who is a member of the Washington National Guard;
- a student who resides in Washington and is on active military duty stationed in certain Oregon counties; and
- a student who resides in Washington and is the spouse or a dependent of a person who resides in Washington and is on active military duty stationed in certain Oregon counties.

The term active military duty means the person is serving on active duty in:

- the armed forces of the United States government; or
- the Washington National Guard; or

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- the Coast Guard, Merchant Marines, or other nonmilitary organization when such service is recognized by the U.S. government as equivalent to service in the armed forces.

Summary: The definition of resident student is revised to include the following:

- a student who is on active military duty or a member of the National Guard who entered service as a Washington resident and has maintained Washington as their domicile but is not stationed in the state;
- a student who is a spouse or a dependent of a person who is on active military duty or a member of the National Guard who entered service as a Washington resident and has maintained Washington as their domicile but is not stationed in the state;
- a student who has separated from the military under honorable conditions after at least two years of service, enters an institution of higher education in Washington within one year of the date of separation, and meets one or more criteria regarding a connection or intended connection to Washington; and
- a student who is the spouse or a dependent of an individual who has separated from the military under honorable conditions after at least two years of service and meets certain criteria regarding a connection or intended connections to Washington.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	45	0
House	96	0

Effective: June 12, 2014