

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 1977

C 46 L 15
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Creating a tuition and fees exemption for children and surviving spouses of certain highway workers.

Sponsors: Representatives Moscoso, Orcutt, Clibborn, Bergquist, Zeiger, Pollet and Tarleton.

House Committee on Higher Education
Senate Committee on Higher Education

Background:

Public institutions of higher education are required and authorized to grant various tuition and fee waivers. Some waivers are state-supported, and institutions receive state funding to make up revenue from waived tuition and fees. Other waivers are discretionary, and institutions do not receive state funding. The institutions are limited in their tuition and fee waiver authority in that the total amount of tuition and fee revenue waived, exempted, or reduced may not exceed a percentage of their estimated gross operating fee revenue. The institutions' percentage caps are as follows:

- University of Washington is 21 percent;
- Washington State University is 20 percent;
- Eastern Washington University is 11 percent;
- Central Washington University is 10 percent;
- Western Washington University is 10 percent;
- The Evergreen State College is 10 percent; and
- community colleges as a whole are 35 percent.

Under certain conditions, the following individuals must be given tuition and fee waivers to attend a postsecondary institution: wrongly convicted persons and their children; Washington Scholar students; and children and spouses of veteran or National Guard members, law enforcement officers, firefighters, or state patrol officers who lost their lives or became totally disabled in the line of duty. Totally disabled means a person who has become totally or permanently disabled for life by bodily injury or disease and is thereby prevented from performing any occupation or gainful pursuit.

Summary:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The state universities, the regional universities, and The Evergreen State College must waive tuition and fees for the children and surviving spouses of highway workers who died or became totally disabled in the line of duty while employed by a transportation agency. A transportation agency means any agency, department, or division of a municipal corporation, political subdivision, or other unit of local government in Washington whose primary function is the construction and maintenance of the state's highways and roads. A transportation agency is distinguished from a transit agency, as one of a transportation agency's main functions is highway maintenance, such as the State Department of Transportation. A transportation agency does not include government contractors.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	58	40
Senate	48	1

Effective: July 24, 2015