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SENATE BILL 5559

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Billig, McAuliffe, Conway, Litzow, Rolfes, Rivers, and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/23/15. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to tuition waivers for state and educational  
2 employees; and amending RCW 28B.15.558.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.15.558 and 2007 c 461 s 1 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The governing boards of the state universities, the regional  
7 universities, The Evergreen State College, and the community colleges  
8 may waive all or a portion of the tuition and services and activities  
9 fees for state employees as defined under subsection (2) of this  
10 section and teachers (~~and~~), other certificated instructional staff  
11 under subsection (3) of this section, and K-12 classified staff under  
12 subsection (4) of this section. The enrollment of these persons is  
13 pursuant to the following conditions:

14 (a) Such persons shall register for and be enrolled in courses on  
15 a space available basis and no new course sections shall be created  
16 as a result of the registration;

17 (b) Enrollment information on persons registered pursuant to this  
18 section shall be maintained separately from other enrollment  
19 information and shall not be included in official enrollment reports,  
20 nor shall such persons be considered in any enrollment statistics  
21 that would affect budgetary determinations; and

1 (c) Persons registering on a space available basis shall be  
2 charged a registration fee of not less than five dollars.

3 (2) For the purposes of this section, "state employees" means  
4 persons employed half-time or more in one or more of the following  
5 employee classifications:

6 (a) Permanent employees in classified service under chapter 41.06  
7 RCW;

8 (b) Permanent employees governed by chapter 41.56 RCW pursuant to  
9 the exercise of the option under RCW 41.56.201;

10 (c) Permanent classified employees and exempt paraprofessional  
11 employees of technical colleges; and

12 (d) Faculty, counselors, librarians, and exempt professional and  
13 administrative employees at institutions of higher education as  
14 defined in RCW 28B.10.016.

15 (3) The waivers available to state employees under this section  
16 shall also be available to teachers and other certificated  
17 instructional staff employed at public common and vocational schools,  
18 holding or seeking a valid endorsement and assignment in a state-  
19 identified shortage area.

20 (4) The waivers available under this section shall also be  
21 available to classified staff employed at public common and  
22 vocational schools when used for coursework relevant to the work  
23 assignment.

24 (5) In awarding waivers, an institution of higher education may  
25 award waivers to eligible persons employed by the institution before  
26 considering waivers for eligible persons who are not employed by the  
27 institution.

28 ((+5)) (6) If an institution of higher education exercises the  
29 authority granted under this section, it shall include all eligible  
30 state employees in the pool of persons eligible to participate in the  
31 program.

32 ((+6)) (7) In establishing eligibility to receive waivers,  
33 institutions of higher education may not discriminate between full-  
34 time employees and employees who are employed half-time or more.

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