
SENATE BILL 6094

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl-Welles, Frockt, Hargrove, and McAuliffe

Read first time 04/02/15. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to freezing resident undergraduate tuition at the
2 four-year institutions of higher education; amending RCW 28B.15.067;
3 and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends to lock tuition
6 rates for students at the public baccalaureate institutions after
7 their initial year of enrollment regardless of whether tuition-
8 setting authority remains with the institutions of higher education
9 or reverts to the omnibus appropriations act. Furthermore, if either
10 the public baccalaureate institutions, or the legislature through the
11 omnibus appropriations act, decreases tuition rates, the legislature
12 intends for this to apply to all students.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.15.067 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 4 s 958 are each
14 amended to read as follows:

15 (1) Tuition fees shall be established under the provisions of
16 this chapter.

17 (2)(a) Beginning in the 2011-12 academic year, reductions or
18 increases in full-time tuition fees shall be as provided in the
19 omnibus appropriations act for resident undergraduate students at
20 community and technical colleges. The (~~governing boards of the state~~

1 ~~universities, regional universities, and The Evergreen State College;~~
2 ~~and the~~) state board for community and technical colleges may reduce
3 or increase full-time tuition fees for all students other than
4 resident undergraduates, including nonresident students, summer
5 school students, and students in other self-supporting degree
6 programs. Percentage increases in full-time tuition may exceed the
7 fiscal growth factor. Except during the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium,
8 the state board for community and technical colleges may pilot or
9 institute differential tuition models. The board may define scale,
10 scope, and rationale for the models.

11 (b) Prior to reducing or increasing tuition for each academic
12 year, the state board for community and technical college system
13 shall consult with existing student associations or organizations
14 with undergraduate student representation regarding the impacts of
15 potential tuition increases. The state board for community and
16 technical colleges shall provide data regarding the percentage of
17 students receiving financial aid, the sources of aid, and the
18 percentage of total costs of attendance paid for by aid.

19 (3)(a) Beginning with the 2011-12 academic year and through the
20 end of the 2014-15 academic year, the governing boards of the state
21 universities, the regional universities, and The Evergreen State
22 College may reduce or increase full-time tuition fees for all
23 students, including summer school students and students in other
24 self-supporting degree programs. Percentage increases in full-time
25 tuition fees may exceed the fiscal growth factor. Reductions or
26 increases may be made for all or portions of an institution's
27 programs, campuses, courses, or students; however, during the
28 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, reductions or increases in tuition must be
29 uniform among resident undergraduate students.

30 ~~(b) ((Prior to reducing or increasing tuition for each academic~~
31 ~~year, the governing boards of the state universities, the regional~~
32 ~~universities, and The Evergreen State College shall consult with~~
33 ~~existing student associations or organizations with student~~
34 ~~undergraduate and graduate representatives regarding the impacts of~~
35 ~~potential tuition increases. Each governing board shall make public~~
36 ~~its proposal for tuition and fee increases twenty one days before the~~
37 ~~governing board of the institution considers adoption and allow~~
38 ~~opportunity for public comment. However, the requirement to make~~
39 ~~public a proposal for tuition and fee increases twenty one days~~
40 ~~before the governing board considers adoption shall not apply if the~~

1 omnibus appropriations act has not passed the legislature by May
2 15th. Governing boards shall be required to provide data regarding
3 the percentage of students receiving financial aid, the sources of
4 aid, and the percentage of total costs of attendance paid for by aid.

5 ~~(c) Prior to reducing or increasing tuition for each academic~~
6 ~~year, the state board for community and technical college system~~
7 ~~shall consult with existing student associations or organizations~~
8 ~~with undergraduate student representation regarding the impacts of~~
9 ~~potential tuition increases. The state board for community and~~
10 ~~technical colleges shall provide data regarding the percentage of~~
11 ~~students receiving financial aid, the sources of aid, and the~~
12 ~~percentage of total costs of attendance paid for by aid.~~

13 ~~(4))~~ (i) Beginning with the 2015-16 academic year through the
14 2018-19 academic year, the governing boards of the state
15 universities, regional universities, and The Evergreen State College
16 may set tuition for resident undergraduates as follows:

17 ~~((a))~~ (A) If state funding for a college or university falls
18 below the state funding provided in the operating budget for fiscal
19 year 2011, the governing board may increase tuition up to the limits
20 set in ~~((d))~~ (b)(i)(D) of this subsection, reduce enrollments, or
21 both;

22 ~~((b))~~ (B) If state funding for a college or university is at
23 least at the level of state funding provided in the operating budget
24 for fiscal year 2011, the governing board may increase tuition up to
25 the limits set in ~~((d))~~ (b)(i)(D) of this subsection and shall
26 continue to at least maintain the actual enrollment levels for fiscal
27 year 2011 or increase enrollments as required in the omnibus
28 appropriations act;

29 ~~((c))~~ (C) If state funding is increased so that combined with
30 resident undergraduate tuition the sixtieth percentile of the total
31 per-student funding at similar public institutions of higher
32 education in the global challenge states under RCW 28B.15.068 is
33 exceeded, the governing board shall decrease tuition by the amount
34 needed for the total per-student funding to be at the sixtieth
35 percentile under RCW 28B.15.068; and

36 ~~((d))~~ (D) The amount of tuition set by the governing board for
37 an institution under this subsection ~~((4))~~ (3)(b)(i) may not exceed
38 the sixtieth percentile of the resident undergraduate tuition of
39 similar public institutions of higher education in the global
40 challenge states.

1 ~~((5))~~ (ii)(A) Beginning with the 2015-16 academic year and
2 subject to funds specifically appropriated to fully offset any
3 revenue forgone by the institutions under this subsection (3)(b)(ii),
4 full-time tuition fees for a resident undergraduate student at a
5 state university, regional university, or The Evergreen State College
6 shall not be increased above the level that the student paid during
7 his or her initial year of enrollment for the amount of time normally
8 required for a full-time student to complete the student's degree
9 requirements as determined by the institution, plus one additional
10 term, from the date of the student's initial enrollment in the
11 institution.

12 (B) Students must maintain full-time status and be continuously
13 enrolled, with the exception of summer term, to be eligible for the
14 tuition provisions in this subsection (3)(b)(ii).

15 (C) Institutions subject to this subsection (3)(b)(ii) may not
16 implement differential tuition for resident undergraduate students
17 affected by this subsection (3)(b)(ii).

18 (iii) Beginning in the 2019-20 academic year, reductions or
19 increases in full-time tuition fees for resident undergraduates at
20 four-year institutions of higher education shall be as provided in
21 the omnibus appropriations act.

22 (c) Prior to reducing or increasing tuition for each academic
23 year, the governing boards of the state universities, the regional
24 universities, and The Evergreen State College shall consult with
25 existing student associations or organizations with student
26 undergraduate and graduate representatives regarding the impacts of
27 potential tuition increases. Each governing board shall make public
28 its proposal for tuition and fee increases twenty-one days before the
29 governing board of the institution considers adoption and allow
30 opportunity for public comment. However, the requirement to make
31 public a proposal for tuition and fee increases twenty-one days
32 before the governing board considers adoption shall not apply if the
33 omnibus appropriations act has not passed the legislature by May
34 15th. Governing boards must provide data regarding the percentage of
35 students receiving financial aid, the sources of aid, and the
36 percentage of total costs of attendance paid for by aid.

37 (4) The tuition fees established under this chapter shall not
38 apply to high school students enrolling in participating institutions
39 of higher education under RCW 28A.600.300 through 28A.600.400.

1 ~~((6))~~ (5) The tuition fees established under this chapter shall
2 not apply to eligible students enrolling in a dropout reengagement
3 program through an interlocal agreement between a school district and
4 a community or technical college under RCW 28A.175.100 through
5 28A.175.110.

6 ~~((7))~~ (6) The tuition fees established under this chapter shall
7 not apply to eligible students enrolling in a community or technical
8 college participating in the pilot program under RCW 28B.50.534 for
9 the purpose of obtaining a high school diploma.

10 ~~((8) Beginning in the 2019-20 academic year, reductions or
11 increases in full-time tuition fees for resident undergraduates at
12 four-year institutions of higher education shall be as provided in
13 the omnibus appropriations act.~~

14 ~~(9) The legislative advisory committee to the committee on
15 advanced tuition payment established in RCW 28B.95.170 shall:~~

16 ~~(a) Review the impact of differential tuition rates on the funded
17 status and future unit price of the Washington advanced college
18 tuition payment program; and~~

19 ~~(b) No later than January 14, 2013, make a recommendation to the
20 appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the legislature regarding
21 how differential tuition should be addressed in order to maintain the
22 ongoing solvency of the Washington advanced college tuition payment
23 program.)~~

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