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SENATE BILL 5575

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Palumbo, Miloscia, Frockt, Zeiger, Wellman, Takko, Hobbs, Brown, Rolfes, Hunt, Hasegawa, Cleveland, Baumgartner, Becker, Keiser, Liias, Billig, Carlyle, Conway, Saldaña, and Kuderer

Read first time 01/30/17. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to including highway workers employed on a  
2 transportation project by a contractor in the tuition and fee  
3 exemption for children and surviving spouses of highway workers; and  
4 amending RCW 28B.15.380.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.15.380 and 2015 c 46 s 1 are each amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 Subject to the limitations of RCW 28B.15.910, the governing  
9 boards of the state universities, the regional universities, and The  
10 Evergreen State College shall exempt the following students from the  
11 payment of all tuition fees and services and activities fees:

12 (1) Children of any law enforcement officer as defined in chapter  
13 41.26 RCW, firefighter as defined in chapter 41.26 or 41.24 RCW,  
14 highway worker, or Washington state patrol officer who lost his or  
15 her life or became totally disabled in the line of duty while  
16 employed by any public law enforcement agency or full-time or  
17 volunteer fire department in this state, or was a highway worker  
18 while either employed by a general contractor or subcontractor, on a  
19 transportation project or employed by a transportation agency:  
20 PROVIDED, That such persons may receive the exemption only if they

1 begin their course of study at a state-supported college or  
2 university within ten years of their graduation from high school; and

3 (2) Surviving spouses of any law enforcement officer as defined  
4 in chapter 41.26 RCW, firefighter as defined in chapter 41.26 or  
5 41.24 RCW, highway worker, or Washington state patrol officer who  
6 lost his or her life or became totally disabled in the line of duty  
7 while employed by any public law enforcement agency or full-time or  
8 volunteer fire department in this state, or was a highway worker  
9 while either employed by a general contractor or subcontractor, on a  
10 transportation project or employed by a transportation agency.

11 (3) The governing boards of the state universities, the regional  
12 universities, and The Evergreen State College shall report to the  
13 education data center on the annual cost of tuition fees and services  
14 and activities fees waived for surviving spouses and children under  
15 this section. The education data center shall consolidate the reports  
16 of the waived fees and annually report to the appropriate fiscal and  
17 policy committees of the legislature.

18 (4) As used in this section, "transportation agency" means any  
19 agency, department, or division of a municipal corporation, political  
20 subdivision, or other unit of local government in this state, and any  
21 agency, department, or division of state government, having as its  
22 primary function the construction and maintenance of the highways and  
23 roads within the state of Washington. Such an agency, department, or  
24 division is distinguished from a transit agency having as one of its  
25 functions the highway maintenance, including but not limited to the  
26 state department of transportation. A transportation agency under  
27 this section does not include a government contractor.

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