
SENATE BILL 5946

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 2nd Special Session
By Senator Fortunato

1 AN ACT Relating to transitioning The Evergreen State College to a
2 private four-year institution of higher education; adding a new
3 section to chapter 28B.40 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that it is incumbent
6 upon public universities and colleges to foster an environment that
7 is conducive to free, open, and rigorous dialogue. Because public
8 universities and colleges are paid for with taxpayer dollars, they
9 have a greater responsibility to be respectful and tolerant of all
10 students regardless of geography, political affiliation, or personal
11 values. When a public university or college fails to uphold those
12 values, it is the responsibility of the legislature to transition
13 that university or college from a public institution to a private
14 institution.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.40
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) The board of trustees of The Evergreen State College, in
18 consultation with the office of financial management, shall develop a
19 plan to transition The Evergreen State College to a private four-year
20 institution of higher education over five years. The plan must

1 include recommendations for legislative action during the 2019
2 legislative session to implement decisions and resolve issues,
3 including creating a new tuition fee schedule and modifying current
4 state requirements for The Evergreen State College. The plan is due
5 to the governor and the relevant fiscal and policy committees of the
6 legislature by December 1, 2018, in accordance with the reporting
7 requirements in RCW 43.01.036.

8 (2) Beginning July 1, 2019, the board of trustees shall begin
9 implementing the plan to transition the college to a private
10 institution of higher education. During the transition, the
11 legislature shall reduce state support by twenty percent per year for
12 five years until state support is reduced to zero. At the end of the
13 five years, the board of trustees shall have The Evergreen State
14 College appraised and listed for sale at fair market value or above.
15 As a condition of sale, the buyer must agree to run The Evergreen
16 State College as a four-year institution of higher education, with
17 the details of the condition of sale to be determined in the plan. If
18 the buyer reneges on the condition of sale, The Evergreen State
19 College shall revert back to the state's control.

20 (3) If The Evergreen State College fails to sell or reverts back
21 to state control as provided for in subsection (2) of this section,
22 then the college shall be placed under the governance of the board of
23 trustees at Washington State University.

24 (4) Nothing in this section intends to disqualify students from
25 receiving state financial aid they would otherwise be eligible to
26 receive, provided that the institution meets the requirements to
27 participate in the state's financial aid programs.

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