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**HOUSE BILL 1735**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Pollet, Sells, Valdez, and Bergquist

Read first time 01/29/19. Referred to Committee on College & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing student success; adding new  
2 sections to chapter 28B.50 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 28B.40  
3 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28B.10 RCW; adding new sections  
4 to chapter 28B.35 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 28B.20 RCW;  
5 creating a new section; and making appropriations.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that evidence-  
8 based investments in student success are essential for the completion  
9 of degrees or certificates by many students. Such investments promote  
10 timely graduation, which is a cost benefit to the student who pays  
11 less tuition and can enter the workforce faster, and to the state,  
12 which has reduced operating costs. College degrees and workforce  
13 certification programs are crucial for ending intergenerational  
14 poverty. College graduates earn more over their lifetime than high  
15 school graduates, are less dependent on social programs, and have  
16 more civic engagement.

17 The legislature also recognizes that student success is often the  
18 product of a good support system. The legislature finds that there is  
19 very strong evidence that student retention term-to-term and year-to-  
20 year significantly increases when students have access to orientation  
21 programs, enroll in student success courses, and have access to

1 academic advisors, peer tutors, career counselors, and mental health  
2 counselors. Programs and resources like these help students navigate  
3 the transition to postsecondary education and introduce students to  
4 the resources available to help them succeed throughout their higher  
5 education experience. Therefore, the legislature intends to support  
6 the public universities' and colleges' budget requests to increase  
7 these types of student supports and student success programs, and to  
8 make an ongoing commitment to evidence-based student support and  
9 success programs.

10 The legislature also finds that for college promise programs to  
11 succeed in enabling students to obtain opportunity creating workforce  
12 training certifications and degrees, students need both financial  
13 support and evidence-based student supports, such as orientation  
14 programs, mentoring, advising, counseling, and behavioral health  
15 supports.

16 The legislature acknowledges that every student attending a  
17 community or technical college has a right to the support needed to  
18 be successful. The legislature finds that too few community and  
19 technical college students complete their degree or certificate.  
20 Three years after starting, four in ten students leave a community or  
21 technical college with no certificate or degree. However, guided  
22 pathways is an integrated, institution-wide approach to student  
23 success based on a model that provides clear, structured, educational  
24 experiences for students with four elements: Clarify paths to  
25 students' end goals, help students choose and enter a pathway, help  
26 students stay on path, and ensure that students are learning.

27 Guided pathways originally began in the fall of 2016 in  
28 Washington with six pilot colleges funded with a grant. During the  
29 2017-2019 biennium, the legislature provided three million dollars in  
30 funding to support the guided pathways initiative at six additional  
31 community and technical colleges. The legislature has previously  
32 supported guided pathways and intends to continue to do so, as early  
33 results indicate the model is improving student success. Pierce  
34 College, which is furthest along in its implementation of guided  
35 pathways, has doubled graduation rates. In addition, Pierce College  
36 faculty used data showing wide ranges of student success across  
37 different sections of the same class to revamp curriculum. As a  
38 result, the average student success rate in English 101 increased by  
39 nearly ten percent. South Puget Sound Community College found that  
40 students who took the enhanced student success class were about

1 fourteen percent more likely to continue their education into the  
2 following year than students who did not take the class. South  
3 Seattle College saw a one hundred twenty-six percent increase in  
4 students receiving support services. This data indicates that guided  
5 pathways is having a positive effect on student success, and the  
6 legislature intends to support the full implementation of the model  
7 at each of the state's community and technical colleges.

8 The legislature recognizes that The Evergreen State College's  
9 fall-to-fall retention rate for first-time, first-year students is  
10 lower than the college's overall retention rate. Current student  
11 supports offered at The Evergreen State College for first-year,  
12 first-time students include an orientation week, advisors, and peer  
13 mentors that are assigned to some first-year academic programs.  
14 However, The Evergreen State College lacks a comprehensive, holistic  
15 approach for first-year, first-time students. Therefore, the  
16 legislature intends to support the implementation of The Evergreen  
17 State College's first-year experience program. The legislature  
18 recognizes that the program's approach to interdisciplinary team-  
19 teaching and its integration of best practices in student supports  
20 with academic curriculum is an innovate approach consistent with The  
21 Evergreen State College's academic structure. In addition, the  
22 legislature intends to support The Evergreen State College's  
23 expansion of precollege immersion programs. Both student support  
24 initiatives complement each other to work towards increasing first-  
25 year, first-time student persistence and completion rates, while  
26 ensuring equitable outcomes for all students.

27 The legislature also recognizes that mental health is a challenge  
28 that many students confront. A recent national survey that included  
29 students from Washington universities and colleges, found that four  
30 out of five students reported emotional distress that impacted their  
31 academic performance and one in three students have suffered from  
32 depression. Five percent of the students surveyed had a plan to end  
33 their life. Therefore, the legislature intends to support increased  
34 behavioral health services at the institutions of higher education,  
35 in addition to increasing awareness of resources available to  
36 students experiencing mental health crises by adding resource  
37 information to student identification cards.

38 The legislature also recognizes that an unintended consequence of  
39 reduced state support for the research universities, coupled with  
40 increased tuition, has led to fifty-five percent of all graduate and

1 professional degree programs at the University of Washington becoming  
2 fee-based, self-sustaining programs. These fee-based, self-sustaining  
3 graduate programs do not offer lower in-state tuition to Washington  
4 residents and may not be eligible for certain financial aid programs.  
5 The increased cost of these fee-based, self-sustaining graduate  
6 programs leads to decreased diversity, increased student loan debt,  
7 and a decrease in the availability of students willing to enter  
8 traditionally low-compensated occupations, such as public service  
9 professions in the areas of public health, librarianship, information  
10 services, and social work, or physician assistants in the University  
11 of Washington MEDEX program. Therefore, the legislature intends for  
12 the public service graduate conditional grant program to provide a  
13 long-term reinvestment that will enable Washington residents to  
14 obtain graduate degrees necessary for public service careers.

15 **PART I**

16 **STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES**

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50  
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
20 specific purpose, the college board shall fully implement the guided  
21 pathways model at each community and technical college in the state.  
22 As a part of the guided pathways model, each college shall have a  
23 mandatory, one-quarter student success course for all first-time  
24 students to be taken during the student's first quarter at the  
25 college. The student success course must be based on evidence and  
26 experience at other postsecondary institutions that have successfully  
27 increased retention and completion for student populations similar to  
28 the populations served at each community and technical college. The  
29 college board, in consultation with the Washington student  
30 achievement council and based on research from the Washington state  
31 institute for public policy, the western interstate commission for  
32 higher education, or other appropriate experts, shall approve each  
33 community and technical college's student success course.

34 (2) Three years after the first cohorts of students complete the  
35 student success courses developed under this section, the college  
36 board shall conduct an evaluation of the efficacy of the courses. The  
37 college board shall contract with independent experts familiar with  
38 similar student success programs, such as the Washington institute

1 for public policy or the Western interstate commission for higher  
2 education, to conduct the evaluation.

3 **PART II**

4 **THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE**

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.40  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 Beginning with the 2019-20 academic year, The Evergreen State  
8 College shall implement the Evergreen first-year experience program  
9 for all first-time, first-year students. The Evergreen first-year  
10 experience program must include a comprehensive, engaging approach to  
11 faculty and staff interdisciplinary teaching that uses best practices  
12 in student supports in an effort to improve student persistence and  
13 completion.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.40  
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) Beginning with the 2019-20 academic year, The Evergreen State  
17 College shall implement precollege immersion programs for first-year,  
18 first-time students that introduce students to The Evergreen State  
19 College pedagogy and experience, while familiarizing students with  
20 advisors, academic support services, and cocurricular activities.

21 (2) To support the implementation of the precollege immersion  
22 programs, The Evergreen State College shall invest in an integrated  
23 planning and intensive advising technology platform that enables  
24 faculty and staff to identify and intervene with students at risk of  
25 attrition.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.40  
27 RCW to read as follows:

28 The Washington state institute for public policy shall conduct an  
29 evaluation of the Evergreen first-year experience program with a  
30 preliminary two-year report due to the legislature and the Washington  
31 student achievement council by December 1, 2021, and a final four-  
32 year report due to the legislature and the Washington student  
33 achievement council by December 1, 2023. The evaluation must address  
34 whether the program is improving fall-to-fall retention for first-  
35 year, first-time students and is improving overall persistence and  
36 completion, broken out by demographics. In addition, the evaluation

1 must include any lessons learned about how the program could be  
2 expanded to other institutions of higher education.

3 **PART III**

4 **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
8 specific purpose, but not to exceed three hundred thousand dollars,  
9 the college board shall contract with an entity with expertise in  
10 higher education and behavioral health to develop a plan for all of  
11 the community and technical colleges as defined in RCW 28B.50.030 to  
12 offer behavioral health services. The plan must include a description  
13 of:

14 (a) Current behavioral health resources available to students at  
15 community and technical colleges, including both on-campus and off-  
16 campus resources;

17 (b) The capacity of current behavioral health resources and areas  
18 where services should be expanded, added, or modified;

19 (c) Recommendations on how to best provide behavioral health  
20 counseling to students at each community and technical college; and

21 (d) A plan detailing how the community and technical colleges can  
22 implement the recommendations for expanding behavioral health  
23 resources to students.

24 (2) The college board shall submit the plan under subsection (1)  
25 of this section to the appropriate committees of the legislature by  
26 December 1, 2020, and in accordance with the reporting requirements  
27 under RCW 43.01.036.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10  
29 RCW to read as follows:

30 To the extent practical, the institutions of higher education  
31 shall add the following information to the back of newly issued  
32 student identification cards beginning with the fall quarter or  
33 semester of the 2019-20 academic year:

34 (1) National, state, or local suicide hotlines;

35 (2) Emergency contact numbers; and

36 (3) Information about behavioral health counseling services that  
37 are available.

1 **PART IV**

2 **CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.35  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) For the 2019-20 academic year, Central Washington University  
6 shall hire additional mental health counselors, case managers, a  
7 psychiatrist, a faculty lecturer, and create additional graduate  
8 assistantships to improve the capacity and efficiency of mental  
9 health services provided to students. The graduate assistantships and  
10 faculty lecturer shall be used to expand the capacity of Central  
11 Washington University's community counseling and psychological  
12 assessment center, which provides services for individuals and  
13 families while training mental health professionals.

14 (2) Central Washington University shall work with county public  
15 health agencies to develop a public information campaign to help  
16 members of the public understand what behavioral and mental health  
17 services are available and describes the challenges and symptoms  
18 students and the public may experience. Central Washington University  
19 shall produce explicit and easy to follow guides that explain how to  
20 better access needed behavioral and mental health services and what  
21 steps are involved to access these services.

22 **PART V**

23 **EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.35  
25 RCW to read as follows:

26 Eastern Washington University shall train students who were  
27 successful in math and science classes to be peer mentors and provide  
28 supplemental instruction. The peer mentors must attend classes and  
29 hold office hours for students enrolled in the classes.

30 **PART VI**

31 **WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.35  
33 RCW to read as follows:

34 Western Washington University shall implement an enhanced career  
35 services model with embedded, integrated, and specialized services to

1 increase student success and completion. The enhanced career services  
2 model shall include detailed employment outcomes and workforce data  
3 that highlights potential career paths to prospective and new  
4 students, additional academic and career counselors to be connected  
5 with students at orientation, embedded career counseling throughout a  
6 student's academic program, dedicated career specialists to work with  
7 students to identify appropriate coursework and internship  
8 opportunities to meet students' career goals, and ongoing career  
9 support after graduation.

10 **PART VII**

11 **UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON PUBLIC SERVICE GRADUATE DEGREE CONDITIONAL**  
12 **GRANT PROGRAM**

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.20  
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 (1) The public service graduate degree conditional grant program  
16 is created at the University of Washington. The University of  
17 Washington shall administer the program and has the following  
18 responsibilities:

19 (a) To adopt necessary rules and develop guidelines to administer  
20 the program;

21 (b) To collect and manage repayments from participants who do not  
22 meet their service obligations;

23 (c) To solicit and accept grants and donations from public and  
24 private sources for the program;

25 (d) To publicize the program; and

26 (e) To select eligible students to receive conditional grants  
27 based on an application process and selection criteria established by  
28 the University of Washington. The selection criteria must emphasize  
29 the following:

30 (i) Whether the student:

31 (A) Has financial need;

32 (B) Is a first generation college student; and

33 (C) Is from a traditionally underrepresented population;

34 (ii) The student's commitment to public service, whether in a  
35 public service field in Washington, for a federal agency serving  
36 underserved populations abroad in lesser developed nations, or for a  
37 not-for-profit organization based in Washington serving underserved  
38 communities in lesser developed nations; and



1 (iii) The student's commitment to working in underserved  
2 communities for which recruitment of credentialed professionals is  
3 difficult.

4 (2) To receive a conditional grant, the recipient must maintain  
5 enrollment and make satisfactory progress toward completion of his or  
6 her graduate degree.

7 (3) The University of Washington may award conditional grants to  
8 eligible students from any appropriated funds, private donations, or  
9 any other funds given to the University of Washington for the  
10 program. The amount of the conditional grant awarded to a participant  
11 may not exceed the difference between the fees charged for the  
12 participant's public service fee-based, self-sustaining graduate  
13 degree program and a similar graduate degree program's in-state  
14 tuition and fees at the University of Washington. If there is no  
15 similar tuition-based program at the University of Washington, a  
16 similar program at a peer public institution of higher education  
17 should be used.

18 (4) A participant incurs an obligation to repay the conditional  
19 grant, as a loan with interest and an equalization fee, unless the  
20 participant is employed:

21 (a) In a public service field in Washington;

22 (b) With a federal agency serving underserved populations abroad  
23 in lesser developed nations;

24 (c) With a not-for-profit organization based in Washington  
25 serving populations in lesser developed nations; or

26 (d) In a research assistantship or teaching assistantship with an  
27 applicable department at the University of Washington in a similar  
28 field as the participant's graduate degree while receiving the  
29 conditional scholarship. A research assistantship or teaching  
30 assistantship funded under the program is subject to any collective  
31 bargaining agreements between graduate students and the University of  
32 Washington.

33 (5) In developing the repayment requirements for a conditional  
34 grant that is converted into a loan, the terms and conditions of the  
35 loan must follow the interest rate and repayment terms of the federal  
36 direct subsidized loan program. In addition, the University of  
37 Washington must consider the following repayment schedule:

38 (a) For less than one year of service in a public service career,  
39 the loan obligation is eighty-five percent of the conditional grant  
40 the student received, plus interest and an equalization fee;

1 (b) For less than two years of service in a public service  
2 career, the loan obligation is seventy percent of the conditional  
3 grant the student received, plus interest and an equalization fee;

4 (c) For less than three years of service in a public service  
5 career, the loan obligation is fifty-five percent of the conditional  
6 grant the student received, plus interest and an equalization fee;

7 (d) For less than four years of service in a public service  
8 career, the loan obligation is forty percent of the conditional grant  
9 the student received, plus interest and an equalization fee;

10 (e) For less than five years of service in a public service  
11 career, the loan obligation is twenty-five percent of the conditional  
12 grant the student received, plus interest and an equalization fee.

13 (6) The University of Washington is responsible for collection of  
14 repayments made under this section and shall exercise due diligence  
15 in such collection, maintaining all necessary records to ensure that  
16 maximum repayments are made. Collection and servicing of repayments  
17 under this section shall be pursued using the full extent of the law,  
18 including wage garnishment if necessary. The University of Washington  
19 is responsible for forgiving all or parts of such repayments under  
20 the criteria established in this section and shall maintain all  
21 necessary records of forgiven payments.

22 (7) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this  
23 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

24 (a) "Conditional grant" means a loan that is forgiven in whole or  
25 in part in exchange for service in a public service career in  
26 Washington.

27 (b) "Eligible student" means a student who is accepted into a  
28 public service fee-based, self-sustaining graduate program, is a  
29 resident student as defined in RCW 28B.15.012 and 28B.15.013, and has  
30 a declared intention to complete an approved public service fee-  
31 based, self-sustaining graduate program.

32 (c) "Equalization fee" means the additional amount added to the  
33 conditional grant under this section to equate the debt to that which  
34 the student would have incurred if he or she would have received a  
35 loan through the federal direct loan program.

36 (d) "Forgiven," "to forgive," or "forgiveness" means to render  
37 service in a public service career in the state of Washington in lieu  
38 of monetary repayment.

39 (e) "Participant" means an eligible student who has received a  
40 conditional grant under this section.

1 (f) "Public service" includes employment with a public agency,  
2 public entity, or a nonprofit organization, and careers in the fields  
3 of librarianship, information services, public health, social work,  
4 and research and teaching in public service programs.

5 (g) "Satisfied" means paid in full.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.20  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) Any funds appropriated by the legislature for the public  
9 service graduate degree conditional grant program, or any other  
10 public or private funds intended for conditional grants under this  
11 program, must be placed in the account created by this section.

12 (2) The public service graduate degree conditional grant account  
13 is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from  
14 the public service graduate degree conditional grant program must be  
15 deposited in the account. Expenditures from the account may be used  
16 only for the public service graduate degree conditional grant  
17 program. Only the University of Washington may authorize expenditures  
18 from the account. The account is subject to the allotment procedures  
19 under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for  
20 expenditures.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** (1)(a) The sum of thirty-seven million  
22 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for  
23 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, from the general fund to the  
24 state board for community and technical colleges for the purposes of  
25 section 2 of this act.

26 (b) The sum of thirty seven-million dollars, or as much thereof  
27 as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June  
28 30, 2021, from the general fund to the state board for community and  
29 technical colleges for the purposes of section 2 of this act.

30 (2)(a) The sum of three hundred forty-five thousand five hundred  
31 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for  
32 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, from the general fund to The  
33 Evergreen State College for the purposes of section 3 of this act.

34 (b) The sum of three hundred forty-five thousand five hundred  
35 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for  
36 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, from the general fund to The  
37 Evergreen State College for the purposes of section 3 of this act.

1 (3) (a) The sum of three hundred seventy-five thousand dollars, or  
2 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal  
3 year ending June 30, 2020, from the general fund to The Evergreen  
4 State College for the purposes of section 4 of this act.

5 (b) The sum of three hundred seventy-five thousand dollars, or as  
6 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year  
7 ending June 30, 2021, from the general fund to The Evergreen State  
8 College for the purposes of section 4 of this act.

9 (4) (a) The sum of one million three hundred thousand dollars, or  
10 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal  
11 year ending June 30, 2020, from the general fund to Central  
12 Washington University for the purposes of section 8 of this act.

13 (b) The sum of one million two hundred forty-five thousand  
14 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for  
15 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, from the general fund to  
16 Central Washington University for the purposes of section 8 of this  
17 act.

18 (5) (a) The sum of one hundred sixty-five thousand dollars, or as  
19 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year  
20 ending June 30, 2020, from the general fund to Eastern Washington  
21 University for the purposes of section 9 of this act.

22 (b) The sum of one hundred seventy-one thousand dollars, or as  
23 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year  
24 ending June 30, 2021, from the general fund to Eastern Washington  
25 University for the purposes of section 9 of this act.

26 (6) (a) The sum of one million one hundred forty-three thousand  
27 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for  
28 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, from the general fund to  
29 Western Washington University for the purposes of section 10 of this  
30 act.

31 (b) The sum of one million one hundred two thousand dollars, or  
32 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal  
33 year ending June 30, 2021, from the general fund to Western  
34 Washington University for the purposes of section 10 of this act.

35 (7) (a) The sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars, or as much  
36 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year  
37 ending June 30, 2020, from the general fund to the University of  
38 Washington for the purposes of making initial public service graduate  
39 degree conditional grants under sections 11 and 12 of this act.

1           (b) The sum of five hundred fifty thousand dollars, or as much  
2           thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year  
3           ending June 30, 2021, from the general fund to the University of  
4           Washington for the purposes of making public service graduate degree  
5           conditional grants under sections 11 and 12 of this act.

--- **END** ---