SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5428

State of Washington 66th Legislature 2019 Regular Session

By Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Senators Wilson, L., Palumbo, Becker, Brown, Wagoner, Warnick, Nguyen, and Zeiger)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/19.

- 1 AN ACT Relating to veterans' mental health services at
- 2 institutions of higher education; and adding a new section to chapter
- 3 28B.10 RCW.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 5 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10 6 RCW to read as follows:
- Subject to the appropriation of funds for this specific purpose,
- 8 the state universities, regional universities, and the state college
- 9 shall each employ at least one full-time mental health counselor
- 10 licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW who has experience and training
- 11 specifically related to working with active members of the military
- 12 or military veterans. The counselor must prioritize work with student
- 13 veterans. Each institution's veteran resource center must make
- 14 available information about mental health services offered by other
- 15 agencies for veterans and the spouses and dependents of veterans. The
- 16 mental health counselor must be accessible through, but not
- 17 necessarily located in, each institution's veteran resource center.

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