

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5070

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As of January 27, 2021

**Title:** An act relating to menstrual hygiene products in school and postsecondary institution bathrooms.

**Brief Description:** Concerning menstrual products in schools.

**Sponsors:** Senators Rivers, Dhingra, Hasegawa, Keiser, Kuderer, Lias, Lovelett, Mullet, Nguyen, Pedersen and Stanford.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Early Learning & K-12 Education: 1/20/21.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Requires school districts, charter schools, state-tribal compact schools, private schools, and institutions of higher education to make menstrual hygiene products available at no cost by the beginning of the 2022-23 school year.
- Specifies that these entities must bear the cost of supplying these products.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

**Staff:** Ailey Kato (786-7434)

**Background:** State law directs the Washington State Board of Health (BOH) to adopt rules controlling public health related to environmental conditions including light, ventilation, sanitary facilities, and cleanliness in public facilities including schools.

Current rules require adequate, conveniently located toilet and hand-washing facilities for students and employees. At hand-washing facilities, soap and single-service towels must be

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provided or warm air dryers. Toilet paper must be available, conveniently located adjacent to each toilet fixture. Toilet and hand-washing facilities must be accessible for use during school hours and scheduled events.

State law defines "institutions of higher education" as:

- any public university, college, community college, or technical college operated by the state or any political subdivision; or
- any other university, college, school, or institute in the state offering instruction beyond the high school level that is a member institution of an accrediting association recognized by rule of the council and agrees to comply with certain rules.

**Summary of Bill:** By the beginning of the 2022-23 school year, school districts, charter schools, state-tribal compact schools, and private schools must make menstrual hygiene products available at no cost in all gender-neutral bathrooms and bathrooms designated for female students located in schools serving students in grades 6-12. Institutions of higher education must also make these products available.

Menstrual hygiene products must include sanitary napkins, tampons, or similar items.

The educational entities must bear the cost of supplying these products. They may seek grants or partner with nonprofit or community-based organizations to fulfill this obligation.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.