
SENATE BILL 5542

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Boehnke, Slatter, Hasegawa, Nobles, Ramos, and Valdez; by request of State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

Read first time 01/28/25. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to tuition waivers for high school completers at
2 community and technical colleges; and amending RCW 28B.15.520.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.15.520 and 2015 c 55 s 217 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 Subject to the limitations of RCW 28B.15.910, the governing
7 boards of the community and technical colleges:

8 (1) May waive all or a portion of tuition fees and services and
9 activities fees for students (~~nineteen years of age or older~~) who
10 are eligible for resident tuition and fee rates as defined in RCW
11 28B.15.012 through 28B.15.015, who enroll in a course of study or
12 program which will enable them to finish their high school education
13 and obtain a high school diploma or certificate, but who are not
14 eligible students as defined by RCW 28A.600.405;

15 (2)(a) Shall waive all of tuition fees and services and
16 activities fees for:

17 (i) Children of any law enforcement officer as defined in chapter
18 41.26 RCW, firefighter as defined in chapter 41.26 or 41.24 RCW, or
19 Washington state patrol officer who lost his or her life or became
20 totally disabled in the line of duty while employed by any public law
21 enforcement agency or full time or volunteer fire department in this

1 state: PROVIDED, That such persons may receive the waiver only if
2 they begin their course of study at a community or technical college
3 within ten years of their graduation from high school; and

4 (ii) Surviving spouses of any law enforcement officer as defined
5 in chapter 41.26 RCW, firefighter as defined in chapter 41.26 or
6 41.24 RCW, or Washington state patrol officer who lost his or her
7 life or became totally disabled in the line of duty while employed by
8 any public law enforcement agency or full time or volunteer fire
9 department in this state.

10 (b) For the purposes of this section, "totally disabled" means a
11 person who has become totally and permanently disabled for life by
12 bodily injury or disease, and is thereby prevented from performing
13 any occupation or gainful pursuit.

14 (c) The governing boards of the community and technical colleges
15 shall report to the state board for community and technical colleges
16 on the annual cost of tuition fees and services and activities fees
17 waived for surviving spouses and children under (a) of this
18 subsection. The state board for community and technical colleges
19 shall consolidate the reports of the waived fees and annually report
20 to the appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the legislature;
21 and

22 (3) May waive all or a portion of the nonresident tuition fees
23 differential for:

24 (a) Nonresident students enrolled in a community or technical
25 college course of study or program which will enable them to finish
26 their high school education and obtain a high school diploma or
27 certificate but who are not eligible students as defined by RCW
28 28A.600.405. The waiver shall be in effect only for those courses
29 which lead to a high school diploma or certificate; and

30 (b) Up to forty percent of the students enrolled in the regional
31 education program for deaf students, subject to federal funding of
32 such program.

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