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**SENATE BILL 5619**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Boehnke, Hasegawa, and Holy

Read first time 01/31/25. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing minimum in-state resident  
2 enrollment thresholds for public universities; adding a new section  
3 to chapter 28B.10 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 ensuring  
6 Washington residents have access to high quality postsecondary  
7 degrees and credentials is imperative to the success and opportunity  
8 of those individuals in the state's diverse and growing economy.  
9 Further, the legislature finds that the foremost role of Washington's  
10 public higher education institutions has been from inception, and  
11 continues to be, to provide access to qualified Washington residents  
12 to such education. It is therefore the intent of this act to  
13 guarantee that Washington institutions of higher education prioritize  
14 Washington resident students for enrollment in postsecondary  
15 education programs.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10  
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 (1) The fall freshman head count enrollment at each of the state  
19 universities, regional universities, the state college, and  
20 separately, their respective university campuses must annually equal

1 at least 75 percent Washington resident students. If insufficient  
2 academically qualified resident undergraduate applicants apply, an  
3 institution may enroll additional nonresident applicants such that  
4 the resident student enrollment mix is less than 75 percent.

5 (2) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the  
6 definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section:

7 (a) "Academically qualified" means the applicant meets the  
8 institution's published minimum admissions standards.

9 (b) "Resident student" has the same meaning as in RCW 28B.15.012.

10 (c) "University campuses" are those provided in chapter 28B.45  
11 RCW.

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