

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1486

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**As Reported by House Committee On:**  
Postsecondary Education & Workforce

**Title:** An act relating to adding a student member to the state board for community and technical colleges.

**Brief Description:** Adding a student member to the state board for community and technical colleges.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Salahuddin, Pollet, Doglio, Davis, Reed, Ramel, Goodman, Peterson, Nance, Scott, Hill and Simmons.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Postsecondary Education & Workforce: 2/12/25, 2/19/25 [DPS].

<p><b>Brief Summary of Substitute Bill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adds a student member to the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.</li></ul>
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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

**Majority Report:** The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 16 members: Representatives Paul, Chair; Nance, Vice Chair; Ybarra, Ranking Minority Member; McEntire, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Entenman, Graham, Keaton, Leavitt, Ley, Mendoza, Pollet, Reed, Salahuddin, Schmidt, Thomas and Timmons.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass. Signed by 1 member: Representative Rude.

**Staff:** Elizabeth Allison (786-7129).

**Background:**

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) is the state agency charged with coordinating and advocating on behalf of the state's 34 community and technical colleges (CTCs). The SBCTC also establishes guidelines for the disbursement of funds and allocates funding to each of the colleges.

The SBCTC is composed of nine members appointed by the Governor. The members must represent the geographic diversity of the state and at least two members must reside east of the Cascade Mountains. In making the appointments, the Governor must attempt to represent labor, business, women, and racial and ethnic minorities. One member must be from business and one member must be from labor. Members serve four-year terms.

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### **Summary of Substitute Bill:**

A student member is added to the SBCTC. The student must be at least 18 years old at the time of appointment, enrolled at a CTC, and must serve for one year. The student member must excuse themselves from participating or voting on matters relating to hiring, discipline, personnel, or issues pertaining to pending litigation. The SBCTC is authorized to adopt rules for this purpose.

### **Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:**

The substitute bill requires a student member to be at least 18 years old at the time of appointment. The SBCTC is permitted to adopt rules to implement the requirements. A student member must excuse themselves from participating or voting on matters relating to hiring, discipline, personnel, or issues pertaining to pending litigation.

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**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available. New fiscal note requested on February 19, 2025.

**Effective Date of Substitute Bill:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

### **Staff Summary of Public Testimony:**

(In support) The SBCTC is responsible for decisions that impact CTCs. The SBCTC serves over 250,000 students who deserve to have input on decisions that affect them. The SBCTC has a variety of responsibilities and would be best served by having a student voice as part of the process. Students have lived experiences and would provide valuable insights. The governing boards for four-year institutions have had a student member for 30 years. The CTCs have had students on the governing boards of two CTCs. Student voices

are also recognized on kindergarten through twelfth grade governing boards. This bill aligns higher education governance with boards across the state. Student representation is a priority. The largest population of students in Washington are CTCs and those students should have a spot on the SBCTC. State policies play a critical role in shaping the student experience but their voices are often absent from the decision-making. The CTC students are commonly underrepresented.

(Opposed) None.

(Other) Students should be excused from decisions in personnel matters and possible litigation. The SBCTC needs to be able to adopt rules.

**Persons Testifying:** (In support) Representative Osman Salahuddin, prime sponsor; Daniel Ngoy, Associated Student Government of Bellevue College; Sean Behl, Washington Student Association; Sam Baneth, Student Chair of Legislative Affairs, North Seattle College; Heba Qatrani, Washington Student Association, South Seattle College Student; and Love Adu, Student Representative, California Community College Board of Governors.

(Other) Arlen Harris, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.