
SENATE BILL 5619

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Bailey, Kohl-Welles, Frockt, and McAuliffe; by request of State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

Read first time 01/26/15. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to basic education for adults at community and
2 technical colleges; amending RCW 43.88C.010; adding a new section to
3 chapter 28B.50 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 an estimated
6 six hundred fifty thousand to seven hundred thousand Washington
7 adults lack the knowledge and skills needed to compete in today's
8 economy and meaningfully participate in this state's democracy. The
9 legislature further finds that by 2016, nearly three-fourths of
10 available jobs in this state will require at least a postsecondary
11 credential and that meeting this workforce need will require
12 educating older adults who lack basic education skills.

13 The legislature further finds it will be necessary to educate
14 older adults who lack basic education skills to meet the goals
15 expressed in section 2, chapter 209, Laws of 2014: "All adults in
16 Washington ages twenty-five to forty-four will have a high school
17 diploma or equivalent by 2023; and at least seventy percent of
18 Washington adults ages twenty-five to forty-four will have a
19 postsecondary credential by 2023."

20 As provided in RCW 28B.50.020 and 28B.50.090, the community and
21 technical colleges are responsible for providing basic skills and

1 literacy education to adults. The colleges fulfill this
2 responsibility by teaching reading, writing, mathematics, technology,
3 and English language to adults who have academic skills below high
4 school level or who need English language skills. Basic education for
5 adults programs prepare students to earn high school diplomas or to
6 pass high school equivalency certificates; teach employability
7 skills, such as critical thinking, communication, problem solving,
8 and decision making; and offer clear and direct pathways to college-
9 level education and credentials.

10 As required by RCW 28B.50.020, the community and technical
11 colleges offer an open door to every citizen, regardless of his or
12 her academic background or experience, at a cost normally within his
13 or her economic means. Acknowledging that adult students enrolled in
14 basic education courses lack the economic means to pay regular
15 tuition, the state board for community and technical colleges has
16 provided a tuition waiver for these students. The absence of tuition
17 revenue from basic skills students creates a financial challenge for
18 the colleges as they seek to serve the diverse needs of their
19 communities.

20 The legislature further finds that a regular, dependable source
21 of funding to provide basic education for adults will increase access
22 to educational pathways that will lead to postsecondary credentials,
23 living wage jobs, and meaningful participation in this state's
24 democracy. The legislature intends to provide a regular, dependable
25 source of funding to provide basic education for adults by providing
26 funding for each full-time equivalent student enrolled at a community
27 or technical college created under chapter 28B.50 RCW.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50
29 RCW to read as follows:

30 (1) State appropriations to the college board shall include a
31 separate appropriation to provide basic education for adults. The
32 appropriation to provide basic education for adults shall be
33 determined by multiplying the total full-time equivalent enrollment
34 in basic education for adults courses by the statewide average per
35 full-time equivalent high school student allocation under RCW
36 28A.150.260 multiplied by the following factors:

- 37 (a) For the 2015-16 academic year, the factor shall be .5;
38 (b) For the 2016-17 academic year, the factor shall be .6;
39 (c) For the 2017-18 academic year, the factor shall be .7;

1 (d) For the 2018-19 academic year, the factor shall be .8;

2 (e) For the 2019-20 academic year, the factor shall be .9; and

3 (f) For the 2020-21 academic year and thereafter, the factor
4 shall be 1.

5 (2) The caseload forecast council shall estimate the anticipated
6 number of full-time equivalent students who will enroll in basic
7 education for adults courses in community and technical colleges
8 under this chapter and shall submit this forecast as specified in RCW
9 43.88C.020.

10 (3) The college board shall submit a budget request each year to
11 adjust the college board's appropriation to ensure full funding for
12 the actual number of full-time equivalent students who enroll in
13 basic education for adults courses in community and technical
14 colleges under this chapter.

15 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.88C.010 and 2013 c 332 s 11 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (1) The caseload forecast council is hereby created. The council
18 shall consist of two individuals appointed by the governor and four
19 individuals, one of whom is appointed by the chairperson of each of
20 the two largest political caucuses in the senate and house of
21 representatives. The chair of the council shall be selected from
22 among the four caucus appointees. The council may select such other
23 officers as the members deem necessary.

24 (2) The council shall employ a caseload forecast supervisor to
25 supervise the preparation of all caseload forecasts. As used in this
26 chapter, "supervisor" means the caseload forecast supervisor.

27 (3) Approval by an affirmative vote of at least five members of
28 the council is required for any decisions regarding employment of the
29 supervisor. Employment of the supervisor shall terminate after each
30 term of three years. At the end of the first year of each three-year
31 term the council shall consider extension of the supervisor's term by
32 one year. The council may fix the compensation of the supervisor. The
33 supervisor shall employ staff sufficient to accomplish the purposes
34 of this section.

35 (4) The caseload forecast council shall oversee the preparation
36 of and approve, by an affirmative vote of at least four members, the
37 official state caseload forecasts prepared under RCW 43.88C.020. If
38 the council is unable to approve a forecast before a date required in
39 RCW 43.88C.020, the supervisor shall submit the forecast without

1 approval and the forecast shall have the same effect as if approved
2 by the council.

3 (5) A councilmember who does not cast an affirmative vote for
4 approval of the official caseload forecast may request, and the
5 supervisor shall provide, an alternative forecast based on
6 assumptions specified by the member.

7 (6) Members of the caseload forecast council shall serve without
8 additional compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses
9 in accordance with RCW 44.04.120 while attending sessions of the
10 council or on official business authorized by the council.
11 Nonlegislative members of the council shall be reimbursed for travel
12 expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

13 (7) "Caseload," as used in this chapter, means:

14 (a) The number of persons expected to meet entitlement
15 requirements and require the services of public assistance programs,
16 state correctional institutions, state correctional noninstitutional
17 supervision, state institutions for juvenile offenders, the common
18 school system, long-term care, medical assistance, foster care, and
19 adoption support;

20 (b) The number of students who are eligible for the Washington
21 college bound scholarship program and are expected to attend an
22 institution of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.92.030; and

23 (c) The number of students expected to enroll in basic education
24 for adults courses at community and technical colleges created under
25 chapter 28B.50 RCW.

26 (8) The caseload forecast council shall forecast the temporary
27 assistance for needy families and the working connections child care
28 programs as a courtesy.

29 (9) The caseload forecast council shall forecast youth
30 participating in the extended foster care program pursuant to RCW
31 74.13.031 separately from other children who are residing in foster
32 care and who are under eighteen years of age.

33 (10) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the
34 definitions provided in RCW 43.88.020 apply to this chapter.

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