

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5830

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Higher Education & Workforce Development, January 27, 2022

Title: An act relating to increasing tenure-track faculty at the public baccalaureate institutions.

Brief Description: Increasing tenure-track faculty at the public baccalaureate institutions.

Sponsors: Senators Liias, Hasegawa, Nobles and Wilson, C..

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Higher Education & Workforce Development: 1/20/22, 1/27/22
[DPS-WM, w/oRec].

Brief Summary of First Substitute Bill

- Adds 200 tenure-track positions at the state universities and regional universities.
- Requires the state universities, regional universities, and state college to develop model faculty diversity programs that will inform hires made under this bill.
- Requires a report on hires made under the bill.
- Directs the Student Achievement Council to collect data and assess the impact of the hires on student completion.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5830 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

Signed by Senators Randall, Chair; Nobles, Vice Chair; Holy, Ranking Member; Liias.

Minority Report: That it be referred without recommendation.

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.

Signed by Senator Sefzik.

Staff: Alicia Kinne-Clawson (786-7407)

Background: According to data provided by the state universities, regional universities, and state college, the student to tenure-track faculty ratio ranged from a high of 48 students per tenure or tenure-track faculty member to a low of 16 students per tenure-or tenure track faculty member.

The ratios are as follows:

- 20 to 1 at the University of Washington;
- 34 to 1 at Washington State University;
- 48 to 1 at Central Washington University;
- 42 to 1 at Eastern Washington University;
- 16 to 1 at the Evergreen State College; and
- 27 to 1 at Western Washington University.

Summary of Bill (First Substitute): Subject to amounts appropriated specifically for this purpose, beginning in the 2022-23 academic year, the Legislature intends to add 200 faculty positions distributed across the state universities and regional universities. The positions are divided among the institutions, with the most positions allocated to the institutions with the highest student to faculty ratio. The allocations are as follows:

- 30 at the University of Washington;
- 30 at Washington State University;
- 50 at Central Washington University;
- 50 at Eastern Washington University; and
- 40 at Western Washington University;

The state universities and regional universities must develop faculty diversity programs for the recruitment and retention of faculty from all racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds. Institutions that have already developed a program that meet the requirements under the bill are considered in compliance. Any hires made under this bill must be conducted in alignment with the faculty diversity program.

The state universities and regional universities must report on hires made under the bill by December 15, 2024.

The student achievement council, in consultation with experts in the field, must collect data and assess the impact of these hires on student outcomes by December 15, 2029.

EFFECT OF CHANGES MADE BY HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (First Substitute):

- Removes The Evergreen State College from the bill and reallocates those 20 FTEs at Western Washington University.
- Adds an additional reporting requirement regarding hires made under the bill.
- Modifies the Washington Student Achievement Council study to be due December 2029 and requires consultation with experts in the field.

Appropriation: The bill contains a section or sections to limit implementation to the availability of amounts appropriated for that specific purpose.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 14, 2022.

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

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Original Bill: *The committee recommended a different version of the bill than what was heard.* PRO: As you'll recall last year we made a great step forward for our community college faculty by converting 200 part-time positions to full-time. Right now we are beginning to introduce new faculty positions at our colleges. After we passed that, our friends at the four-year level reminded us that there are significant adjunct positions there as well and this bill may make sense from an equity lens. I think it will add wonderful quality faculty positions at our institutions. Washington is leading the way on making public education public again. As we do that we have to make sure that students have access to high quality professors. Nothing helps a student succeed more than access to a high quality professor who has the time to make sure they have the resources to be successful. This is similar to a proposal Western Washington University put forward this year around student success. Additional faculty through this bill will help us increase our capacity toward state attainment goals. High quality faculty increase retention and engagement. We aren't sure a Washington Student Achievement Council study with a 2024 due date would reveal the full impact of this bill. As a non-tenure track faculty, each year there is the reality that I may not have a job. We are passionate about our work and enjoy the opportunity but the uncertainty is a struggle. This minimizes the impact we can have on our students. Full time tenured faculty are able to be better mentors to students because of the stability offered.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Marko Liias, Prime Sponsor; Bill Lyne, United Faculty of Washington State; Jacob Vigdor, University of Washington Faculty; Sabah Randhawa, Western Washington University; David Douglas, Council of Faculty; Sam Ligon, Eastern Washington University Faculty.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.