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**HOUSE BILL 1540**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Timmons and Eslick; by request of Student Achievement Council

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding eligibility for the students  
2 experiencing homelessness and foster youth program to an accredited  
3 tribal college; and amending RCW 28B.77.850.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.77.850 and 2023 c 339 s 2 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
8 specific purpose, each public four-year institution of higher  
9 education and a public tribal college located in Washington and  
10 accredited by the northwest commission on colleges and universities  
11 or another accrediting association recognized by the United States  
12 department of education may implement a program to provide assistance  
13 to students experiencing homelessness and to students who were in the  
14 foster care system when they graduated high school. The program must  
15 provide certain accommodations to these students that may include,  
16 but are not limited to, the following:

- 17 (a) Access to laundry facilities;  
18 (b) Access to storage;  
19 (c) Access to locker room and shower facilities;  
20 (d) Reduced-price meals or meal plans, and access to food banks;  
21 (e) Access to technology;

1 (f) Access to short-term housing or housing assistance,  
2 especially during seasonal breaks; and

3 (g) Case management services.

4 (2) The four-year institutions of higher education and the tribal  
5 college may also establish plans to develop surplus property for  
6 affordable housing to accommodate the needs of students experiencing  
7 homelessness and students who were in the foster care system when  
8 they graduated high school.

9 (3) The four-year institutions of higher education and the tribal  
10 college participating in the program shall leverage existing  
11 community resources by making available to students in the program  
12 information that is available for individuals experiencing  
13 homelessness, including through not-for-profit organizations, the  
14 local housing authority, and the department of commerce's office of  
15 homeless youth.

16 (4) The four-year institutions of higher education and the tribal  
17 college participating in the program shall annually provide a joint  
18 report to the appropriate committees of the legislature in accordance  
19 with RCW 43.01.036 beginning December 1, 2023, that includes at least  
20 the following information:

21 (a) The number of students experiencing homelessness or food  
22 insecurity, and the number of students who were in the foster care  
23 system when they graduated high school who attended a four-year  
24 institution of higher education or a tribal college during the  
25 program. The council shall coordinate with all of the four-year  
26 institutions of higher education and the tribal college to collect  
27 voluntary data on how many students experiencing homelessness or food  
28 insecurity are attending the four-year institutions of higher  
29 education and the tribal college;

30 (b) The number of students assisted by the program;

31 (c) Strategies for accommodating students experiencing  
32 homelessness or food insecurity, and former foster care students; and

33 (d) Legislative recommendations for how students experiencing  
34 homelessness or food insecurity, and former foster care students  
35 could be better served.

36 (5) For purposes of this section, "program" means the students  
37 experiencing homelessness and foster youth program.

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