
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5800

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Senators Randall, Zeiger, Nguyen, Wilson, C., Saldaña, Carlyle, Keiser, Sheldon, Das, Hasegawa, and Kuderer)

1 AN ACT Relating to the helping homeless college students act;
2 adding a new section to chapter 28B.50 RCW; adding a new section to
3 chapter 28B.77 RCW; and providing expiration dates.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The college board shall select four college districts, two on
8 each side of the crest of the Cascade mountain range, to participate
9 in a pilot program to provide assistance to students experiencing
10 homelessness and to students who were in the foster care system when
11 they graduated high school. The college districts chosen to
12 participate in the pilot program must provide certain accommodations
13 to these students that may include, but are not limited to, the
14 following:

15 (a) Access to laundry facilities;

16 (b) Access to storage;

17 (c) Access to locker room and shower facilities;

18 (d) Reduced-price meals or meal plans, and access to food banks;

19 (e) Access to technology;

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

1 (g) Case management services.

2 (2) The college districts may also establish plans to develop
3 surplus property for affordable housing to accommodate the needs of
4 students experiencing homelessness and students who were in the
5 foster care system when they graduated high school.

6 (3) The college districts participating in the pilot program
7 shall provide a joint report to the appropriate committees of the
8 legislature by December 1, 2023, that includes at least the following
9 information:

10 (a) The number of students experiencing homelessness and the
11 number of students who were in the foster care system when they
12 graduated high school who were attending a community or technical
13 college during the pilot program. The college board shall coordinate
14 with all of the community and technical colleges to collect voluntary
15 data on how many students experiencing homelessness are attending the
16 community and technical colleges;

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

18 (c) Strategies for accommodating students experiencing
19 homelessness and former foster care students; and

20 (d) Legislative recommendations for how students experiencing
21 homelessness and former foster care students could be better served.

22 (4) The college districts not selected to participate in the
23 pilot program are:

24 (a) Invited to participate voluntarily; and

25 (b) Encouraged to submit the data required of the pilot program
26 participants under subsection (3) of this section, regardless of
27 participation status.

28 (5) The pilot program expires July 1, 2023.

29 (6) This section expires January 1, 2024.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.77
31 RCW to read as follows:

32 (1) The council shall select two public four-year institutions of
33 higher education, one on each side of the crest of the Cascade
34 mountain range, to participate in a pilot program to provide
35 assistance to students experiencing homelessness and to students who
36 were in the foster care system when they graduated high school. The
37 four-year institutions of higher education chosen to participate in
38 the pilot program must provide certain accommodations to these
39 students that may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1 (a) Access to laundry facilities;
- 2 (b) Access to storage;
- 3 (c) Access to locker room and shower facilities;
- 4 (d) Reduced-price meals or meal plans, and access to food banks;
- 5 (e) Access to technology;
- 6 (f) Access to short-term housing or housing assistance,
- 7 especially during seasonal breaks; and
- 8 (g) Case management services.

9 (2) The four-year institutions of higher education may also
10 establish plans to develop surplus property for affordable housing to
11 accommodate the needs of students experiencing homelessness and
12 students who were in the foster care system when they graduated high
13 school.

14 (3) The four-year institutions of higher education participating
15 in the pilot program shall provide a joint report to the appropriate
16 committees of the legislature by December 1, 2023, that includes at
17 least the following information:

18 (a) The number of students experiencing homelessness and the
19 number of students who were in the foster care system when they
20 graduated high school who were attending a four-year institution of
21 higher education during the pilot program. The council shall
22 coordinate with all of the four-year institutions of higher education
23 to collect voluntary data on how many students experiencing
24 homelessness are attending the four-year institutions of higher
25 education;

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

27 (c) Strategies for accommodating students experiencing
28 homelessness and former foster care students; and

29 (d) Legislative recommendations for how students experiencing
30 homelessness and former foster care students could be better served.

31 (4) The four-year institutions of higher education not selected
32 to participate in the pilot program are:

33 (a) Invited to participate voluntarily; and

34 (b) Encouraged to submit the data required of the pilot program
35 participants under subsection (3) of this section, regardless of
36 participation status.

37 (5) The pilot program expires July 1, 2023.

38 (6) This section expires January 1, 2024.

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