
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1238

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By House Higher Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Pollet, Haler, Tarleton, Sells, Holy, Orwall, Bergquist, Frame, Fitzgibbon, Ormsby, Stanford, and Farrell)

1 AN ACT Relating to creating new full-time tenure track positions
2 at the state's four-year public institutions of higher education;
3 adding a new section to chapter 28B.10 RCW; creating new sections;
4 and providing an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature declares that:

7 (a) One of the most valuable assets of the four-year public
8 institutions of higher education is the tenured faculty who teach,
9 advise, mentor, and in many other ways contribute to the institutions
10 that employ them. According to research, student completion and
11 success in college improve when students are taught by tenured
12 faculty members. However, in 2016, only forty-five to fifty-five
13 percent of the faculty at the state and regional universities were
14 full-time tenure track faculty.

15 (b) Student completion and success may be significantly improved
16 by increasing the percent of full-time tenure track faculty who will
17 provide instruction, advising, mentoring, curriculum and resource
18 development, and other functions.

19 (2) Therefore, it is the legislature's goal that over the next
20 several years, the four-year public institutions increase the numbers
21 of full-time tenure track faculty positions on their campuses.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) For the purposes of this section "four-year public
4 institution" refers to any one of the regional universities or the
5 state college.

6 (2)(a) Subject to availability of amounts appropriated for this
7 specific purpose, the faculty expansion program at the four-year
8 public institutions is created. The purpose of the program is to
9 encourage the four-year public institutions to increase the number of
10 full-time tenure track faculty positions on their campuses.

11 (b) For every two full-time tenure track faculty positions
12 created by a four-year public institution in the 2017-2019 fiscal
13 biennium, which the four-year public institution must fill or be
14 actively seeking to fill, the program must provide to that four-year
15 public institution one hundred thousand dollars for the 2017-2019
16 fiscal biennium and one hundred thousand dollars for the 2019-2021
17 fiscal biennium, to be used solely for the purpose of funding a third
18 full-time tenure track faculty position at the four-year public
19 institution, which the four-year public institution must fill or
20 actively seek to fill. Each four-year public institution is eligible
21 to receive up to five hundred thousand dollars for the 2017-2019
22 fiscal biennium and five hundred thousand dollars for the 2019-2021
23 fiscal biennium, to fund a total of five program-funded full-time
24 tenure track faculty positions created under this section.

25 (c) A four-year public institution is eligible to receive amounts
26 under this section only if the prerequisite full-time tenure track
27 faculty positions created are new. A new full-time tenure track
28 faculty position means a position that did not exist at the four-year
29 public institution before the fall of 2017. A vacant full-time tenure
30 track faculty position that exists due to attrition or retirement is
31 not a new full-time tenure track faculty position and may not be
32 counted as a prerequisite full-time tenure track faculty position for
33 the purposes of this section.

34 (d) The duties of the prerequisite full-time tenure track faculty
35 positions and the program-funded full-time tenure track faculty
36 positions must include a full-time teaching load, advising, and
37 curriculum development.

38 (3) This section expires June 30, 2022.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If specific funding for the purposes of
2 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
3 provided by June 30, 2017, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
4 act is null and void.

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