
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5557

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Senators Llias, Hasegawa, Valdez, Conway, Hunt, Keiser, Lovick, Nguyen, Nobles, Saldaña, Salomon, Stanford, Wellman, and C. Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/17/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to pay equity for part-time faculty; creating a
2 new section; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that an overreliance
5 on poorly paid, job insecure part-time faculty in the community and
6 technical colleges harms students, faculty, the colleges, and our
7 communities. The state legislature first took steps to address this
8 issue in 1996 through passage of a bill requiring an audit of
9 compensation for part-time faculty and establishing the best
10 practices for part-time employment. Between 1997 and 2007 the
11 legislature allocated funds to address this problem, but the problem
12 remains. In some colleges, part-time faculty are paid as little as 52
13 percent of full-time faculty for teaching the same class and
14 possessing the same qualifications. Repeated evaluations of
15 compensation and the other best practices have failed to produce
16 substantive progress for the majority of faculty in the community and
17 technical colleges.

18 The legislature also finds that this salary disparity leads to
19 the need for part-time faculty to teach more classes than is ideal,
20 work additional jobs to make ends meet, or leave the teaching
21 profession for a better salary. Students are harmed when a part-time

1 teacher is unavailable for office hours or for consultation in future
2 quarters, or when they are not aware of the student resources
3 available to struggling students. Furthermore, inadequate salaries
4 lead to a less diverse part-time faculty pool because economic
5 privilege is almost a necessity in order to remain a part-time
6 faculty member. All faculty are harmed when their part-time
7 colleagues are unable to contribute to program development,
8 governance, and other "life of the college" activities. Colleges are
9 harmed when they spend time rehiring faculty quarter to quarter, year
10 after year due to high turnover rates. Communities are harmed when
11 workers do not earn enough to participate in the economy fully and
12 when they must rely on the safety net for adequate food, rent, health
13 care, and more.

14 It is the intent of the legislature to achieve pay equity for
15 part-time and adjunct faculty relative to their full-time and tenured
16 peers. Therefore, the legislature intends to establish a part-time
17 salary minimum of 85 percent of full-time, comparably qualified
18 faculty recognizing that approximately 85 percent of a full-time
19 faculty member's work is student and instruction related. The
20 remaining 15 percent relates to committee work, program development,
21 student club advising, and other activities. State funding to
22 increase part-time salaries to 85 percent will result in the ability
23 of part-time faculty to be more available to students and to become
24 more firmly rooted in their college over time. Pay equity will make
25 teaching at the community and technical colleges a more viable career
26 path for candidates who cannot afford to teach part-time, very often
27 including candidates from historically marginalized communities.
28 Greater diversity among part-time faculty will lead to greater
29 diversity of candidates for full-time positions.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) By July 1, 2024, the state board for
31 community and technical colleges shall develop and submit a plan to
32 the governor and the higher education committees of the legislature
33 in accordance with RCW 43.01.036. The plan must include the cost to
34 provide compensation to part-time and adjunct faculty that equals or
35 exceeds 85 percent of the compensation provided to comparably
36 qualified full-time and tenured faculty by the 2026-27 academic year.

37 (2) The sums of \$2,777,100 for the fiscal year 2024 and
38 \$2,777,100 for the fiscal year 2025, or as much thereof may be
39 necessary are appropriated, from the general fund—state to the state

1 board for community and technical colleges for the sole purpose of
2 increasing part-time and adjunct faculty pay to be at least the
3 equivalent of 60 percent of their full-time comparably qualified
4 peers.

5 (3) Beginning with the 2025-2027 omnibus appropriations act, it
6 is the intent of the legislature to pass an omnibus operating
7 appropriations act with the purposes of achieving pay equity for
8 part-time and adjunct faculty in accordance with the plan submitted
9 under subsection (1) of this section.

10 (4) The standards used in this section to determine pay equity
11 must be based on the instructional work of the faculty, including
12 direct student support, time in class, preparation for class, grading
13 and assessment, and office hours equivalent to those required for
14 full-time tenure-track faculty under the relevant collective
15 bargaining agreement.

--- END ---