
SENATE BILL 5609

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senators Murray, Kohl-Welles, Clements and Shin; by request of Health Care Authority

Read first time 01/25/2007. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to health care eligibility for part-time academic
2 employees of community and technical colleges; amending RCW 41.05.053;
3 and amending 2006 c 308 s 1 (uncodified).

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

5 **Sec. 1.** 2006 c 308 s 1 (uncodified) is amended to read as follows:
6 Part-time academic employees at community and technical colleges
7 are currently eligible for full health care benefits beginning the
8 second consecutive quarter of employment, at half-time or more of an
9 academic workload, as defined in RCW 28B.50.489. They are also
10 eligible for health benefits through the summer even if they receive no
11 work at all that quarter, if they have worked half-time or more of an
12 academic workload in each of the three (~~of the four~~) preceding
13 quarters. However, workload fluctuations below these thresholds may
14 result in the loss of employer contributions for health care benefits.
15 It is the intent of the legislature to provide for continuous health
16 care eligibility for part-time academic employees based on averaging
17 workload gained during the two preceding academic years.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 41.05.053 and 2006 c 308 s 2 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 (1) Part-time academic employees, as defined in RCW 28B.50.489, who
4 have established eligibility as determined from the payroll records of
5 the employing community or technical college districts, for employer
6 contributions for benefits under this chapter and who have worked an
7 average of half-time or more in each of the two preceding academic
8 years, through employment at one or more community or technical college
9 districts, are eligible for continuation of employer contributions for
10 the subsequent summer quarter period including the break between summer
11 and fall quarters.

12 (2) Once a part-time academic employee meets the criteria in
13 subsection (1) of this section, the employee shall continue to receive
14 uninterrupted employer contributions for benefits if the employee works
15 at least ~~((three))~~ two of the ~~((four))~~ three quarters of the academic
16 year with an average academic year workload of half-time or more.
17 Benefits provided under this section cease ~~((at the end of the academic~~
18 ~~year))~~ if this criteria is not met. Continuous benefits shall be
19 reinstated once the employee reestablishes eligibility under subsection
20 (1) of this section ~~((and will be maintained as long as the employee~~
21 ~~works at least three of the four quarters of the academic year with an~~
22 ~~average academic workload of half time or more))~~.

23 (3) As used in this section, "academic year" means ~~((summer,))~~
24 fall, winter, and spring quarters.

25 (4) This section does not modify rules in existence on June 7,
26 2006, adopted under this chapter regarding the initial establishment of
27 eligibility for benefits.

28 (5) This section does not preclude individuals from being eligible
29 for benefits under other laws or rules that may apply or for which they
30 may be eligible.

31 (6) The employer must notify part-time academic employees of their
32 potential right to benefits under this section.

33 (7) To be eligible for maintenance of benefits through averaging,
34 part-time academic employees must notify their employers of their
35 potential eligibility. The state board for community and technical
36 colleges shall report back to the legislature by November 15, 2009, on

1 the feasibility of eliminating the self-reporting requirement for
2 employees.

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