
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5150

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Senators Wilson, L., Becker, Palumbo, O'Ban, and Short)

READ FIRST TIME 02/18/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to authority for providing security to the
2 campuses of the state community and technical colleges; adding a new
3 section to chapter 28B.050 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there is a
6 public interest in protecting students at all levels of their
7 education. The legislature also finds that there is an increasing
8 atmosphere of societal unrest, especially on college campuses. The
9 legislature also finds that the state universities, the regional
10 universities, and The Evergreen State College are explicitly
11 authorized to maintain a high level of security. The legislature also
12 finds that the community and technical colleges have not been given
13 the authority to maintain the same level of security as the
14 universities. The legislature intends the community and technical
15 colleges to also have options to protect their students and campuses
16 in accordance with the recommendations issued by the mass shootings
17 work group in 2018. Nothing in this section is intended to mandate
18 how each college district chooses to protect its students, but
19 instead is designed to clearly provide explicit authorization for the
20 community and technical colleges to act as is appropriate for each
21 college district to provide protection for students and faculty.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) The board of trustees for each college district, acting
4 independently, and each on behalf of its own college district, have
5 the authority to protect each college campus in a manner and with
6 personnel appropriate for that campus's culture and environment. Each
7 board of trustees is authorized to:

8 (a) Enter into a written agreement with a local law enforcement
9 agency to assign one or more commissioned law enforcement officers of
10 the state with sworn authority to make arrests, deployed in
11 community-oriented policing, and assigned by the employing police
12 department or sheriff's office to work with the appropriate security,
13 safety, and emergency management personnel at the community and
14 technical colleges to ensure the safety of the college campus;

15 (b) Maintain a public safety department with appropriately
16 trained officers who may carry weapons, not including firearms, under
17 the discretion of each community or technical college's public safety
18 director; and

19 (c) Contract with public or private entities to provide security
20 services for the community or technical college as authorized by this
21 section.

22 (2) Subsection (1) of this section does not authorize the
23 carrying or use of firearms by any person other than a commissioned
24 Washington law enforcement officer.

25 (3) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
26 specific purpose, the state board for community and technical
27 colleges and the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs
28 shall develop a template contract and accompanying information to
29 assist community and technical colleges in contracting for the
30 provision of security under subsection (1)(a) of this section.

31 (4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a cause
32 of action against any community or technical college for choosing not
33 to implement any of the above security measures.

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