
SENATE BILL 5150

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senators Wilson, L., Becker, Palumbo, O'Ban, and Short

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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 commissioned police force. The legislature
12 also finds that the community and technical colleges have not been
13 given 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 broad options to protect their students and
16 campuses in accordance with the recommendations issued by the mass
17 shootings work group in 2018. Nothing in this section is intended to
18 mandate how each college district chooses to protect its students,
19 but instead is designed to clearly provide explicit authorization for
20 the community and technical colleges to act as is appropriate for
21 each 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) Employ one or more school resource officers who are
9 commissioned law enforcement officers of the state with sworn
10 authority to make arrests, deployed in community-oriented policing,
11 and assigned by a employing police department or sheriff's office to
12 work with the appropriate personnel at the community and technical
13 colleges to ensure the safety of the college campus;

14 (b) Approve safety officers to carry weapons including, but not
15 limited to, firearms after the officers have received appropriate
16 training as determined by a council convened by the college board
17 that provides systemwide support to colleges for issues related to
18 campus safety, security, and emergency management;

19 (c) Contract with local law enforcement agencies to provide
20 security services for the college; or

21 (d) At such a time as funds are available and the college
22 district believes it is appropriate, establish a safety force
23 comprised of officers that may be commissioned law enforcement
24 officers and may carry weapons including, but not limited to,
25 firearms.

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

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

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