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**SENATE BILL 5738**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Darneille, Nguyen, and Wilson, C.

Read first time 01/30/19. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring postsecondary institutions to plan  
2 for the needs of certain students experiencing homelessness; adding a  
3 new section to chapter 28B.50 RCW; adding a new section to chapter  
4 28B.10 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that a postsecondary  
7 credential is essential to Washingtonians' ability to attain jobs  
8 with good salaries and advancement opportunities. The legislature  
9 also finds that recent research links experiencing homelessness and  
10 housing insecurity with poorer postsecondary academic achievement and  
11 credential attainment, and that experiencing homelessness while a  
12 postsecondary student, after accounting for other background factors,  
13 is associated with an eight to ten percent reduction in the  
14 probability of later credential attainment or enrollment. The  
15 legislature finds that efforts to promote credential attainment  
16 should be expanded to consider students' living conditions and to  
17 alleviate the burden that experiencing homelessness imposes on  
18 postsecondary students.

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

1 (1) To plan for the unique needs and challenges of students  
2 experiencing homelessness, each college district must develop a  
3 capital project plan by July 1, 2021, to renovate or rehabilitate an  
4 existing building or facility within the district to provide, but not  
5 be limited to, the following accommodations: Laundry facilities,  
6 storage units, showers, and lockers. Any such renovation and  
7 rehabilitation project listed in the capital project plan must be  
8 completed by July 1, 2023. If the college district implements a  
9 culinary program, it is encouraged to provide free or reduced-price  
10 meals to reduce food insecurity.

11 (2) To address student homelessness and increase housing options,  
12 each college district must also attempt to engage with the local  
13 housing authority to provide tenant-based rental assistance programs,  
14 including such programs to assist students who were recently released  
15 from a state correctional facility or local jail.

16 (3) For purposes of this section, "homelessness" means without a  
17 fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence as set forth in the  
18 federal McKinney-Vento homeless assistance act, P.L. 100-77, July 22,  
19 1987, 101 Stat. 482, and runaway and homeless youth act, P.L. 93-415,  
20 Title III, September 7, 1974, 88 Stat. 1129.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10  
22 RCW to read as follows:

23 (1) To plan for the unique needs and challenges of students  
24 experiencing homelessness, each four-year institution of higher  
25 education, as part of its submission to the office of financial  
26 management and the legislative fiscal committees of the legislature  
27 under RCW 43.88D.010(7), must develop a capital project plan by July  
28 1, 2021, to renovate or rehabilitate an existing campus building or  
29 facility to provide, but not be limited to, the following  
30 accommodations: Laundry facilities, storage units, showers, and  
31 lockers. Any such renovation and rehabilitation project listed in the  
32 capital project plan must be completed by July 1, 2023. If the four-  
33 year institution of higher education implements a culinary program,  
34 it is encouraged to provide free or reduced-price meals to reduce  
35 food insecurity.

36 (2) To address student homelessness and increase housing options,  
37 each four-year institution of higher education must also attempt to  
38 engage with the local housing authority to provide tenant-based  
39 rental assistance programs, including such programs to assist

1 students who were recently released from a state correctional  
2 facility or local jail.

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4 fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence as set forth in the  
5 federal McKinney-Vento homeless assistance act, P.L. 100-77, July 22,  
6 1987, 101 Stat. 482, and runaway and homeless youth act, P.L. 93-415,  
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