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**SENATE BILL 5914**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Senator Ericksen

1 AN ACT Relating to providing equity and fairness in the faculties  
2 of the institutions of higher education; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 28B.10 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This act may be known and cited as the  
6 higher education equity act.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The legislature finds that the state has a  
8 vital interest in ensuring that institutions of higher education are  
9 as accessible as possible to the citizens of the state. The economic,  
10 intellectual, and social well-being of the state and its people is  
11 reliant upon having a well-balanced, well-educated workforce.  
12 Educational diversity is one of many factors that supports this  
13 workforce. The legislature finds that in order to ensure that equity  
14 and fairness are incorporated into ensuring educational diversity, it  
15 is important that the faculty present at the institutions of higher  
16 education equitably represent the political and ideological diversity  
17 of the citizenry of the state. The legislature also finds that hiring  
18 decisions are the most effective way to ensure ideological diversity  
19 among the faculty of the state's institution of higher education.

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

3        (1) Institutions of higher education shall provide equity and  
4 fairness in their faculty by surveying faculty candidates to ensure  
5 that a minimum of twenty-five percent of all faculty, tenured and  
6 adjunct included, ascribe to conservative political and moral  
7 principles.

8        (2) In order to ensure compliance with subsection (1) of this  
9 section, institutions of higher education must:

10        (a)(i) Include the following statement in any faculty job  
11 posting:

12        (ii) "This institution believes that ideological diversity is of  
13 an utmost importance for the promotion of a safe and inclusive  
14 learning environment. It is our intent that our faculty reflect the  
15 political and ideological diversity of our student body. All  
16 qualified candidates, regardless of political ideology, are  
17 encouraged to apply"; and

18        (b) Ensure that the last round of candidates for any faculty  
19 position includes at least one conservative candidate.

20        (3) For the purposes of this section, "conservative" means an  
21 advocate of individual liberty, limited government, and free markets.

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