
BILL REQUEST - CODE REVISER'S OFFICE

BILL REQ. #: I-2396.1/11

ATTY/TYPIST: SCG:mos

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

Initiative Measure No. 1147

filed March 3, 2011

AN ACT Relating to protecting the rights of Washington state residents to obtain higher education degrees; adding a new section to chapter 28B.10 RCW; and creating new sections.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The number of foreign students attending American colleges hit an all-time high in 2008, capping three consecutive years of vigorous growth and some six hundred seventy-one thousand six hundred sixteen international students attended United States institutions in 2008-2009, an increase of almost eight percent from a year earlier versus some two hundred sixty-two thousand four hundred sixteen United States students studied abroad.

The University of Washington has over two thousand eight hundred eighty-four international students that comprise six and seven-tenths percent of the student population. Washington State University has over one thousand four hundred thirty international students that comprise six percent of the student population.

Foreign students come to our universities, they take that knowledge and go home. In the short term, our economy benefits from their living here and paying higher tuition rates. However, they are taking seats that could be filled by residents of our state who will use that knowledge and help our economy.

The findings and intent section from chapter 180, Laws of 2006, noted after RCW 28B.10.056, states:

(1) The legislature recognizes the vital importance to the state's economic prosperity and the economic benefit of placing a priority on enrolling and conferring degrees upon students in the fields of engineering, technology, biotechnology, science, computer science, and mathematics.

(2) The legislature has significant concerns that other countries are outpacing the United States in graduating qualified engineers, and that major corporations within Washington state are searching out-of-state and even outside the United States to find the qualified and trained employees they need. . . .

(6) Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to promote increased access, delivery models, enrollment slots, and degree opportunities in the fields of engineering, technology, biotechnology, sciences, computer sciences, and mathematics. It is recognized that these areas of study and training are integrally linked to ensuring that Washington state's economy can compete nationally and globally in the twenty-first century marketplace. It is also recognized that community colleges play a unique role in supporting degree attainment in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through the development of transferable curricula and the maintenance of viable articulation agreements with both public and private universities. [2006 c 180 s 1]

The regional universities, state universities, community colleges, and vocational schools are funded or subsidized by taxes collected from Washington state residents, and the legislature recognizes a significant problem with residents obtaining higher education degrees and continues to allow foreign students to obtain an education at the expense of Washington state residents. Any educational system in the state of Washington that receives any funding from taxpayer dollars may no longer offer an education to foreign students. Charity and education begins at home.

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

Any regional universities, state universities, community colleges, and vocational schools funded or subsidized by taxes collected from Washington state residents, may no longer educate foreign students at the expense of Washington state residents. Exceptions to this rule need to be considered and the following students are entitled to receive an education in the Washington state higher education system:

- (1) Students in the Washington international exchange scholarship program;
- (2) Students from neighboring states that offer reciprocal educational benefits to Washington state residents; and
- (3) Students that have been recruited for various student athlete programs.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act may be known and cited as the right of Washington residents to obtain a higher education act.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The provisions of this act are to be liberally construed to effectuate the intent, policies, and purposes of this act.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the

remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.