**DRAFT**

**Compensating students for participation in listening and engagement sessions under SB5227**

There's a new RCW that was passed last session that removes many of the barriers for compensating non-employees for their work on committees and commissions. It is RCW 43.03.220:  <https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=43.03.220>.

Even though the title is "boards and commissions" the language says it applies to "Any part-time board, commission, council, committee, or other similar group which is established by the executive, legislative, or judicial branch to participate in state government and which functions primarily in an advisory, coordinating, or planning capacity".

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| [RCW 43.03.220: Compensation of members of part-time boards and commissions—Class one groups. - Washington](https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=43.03.220)  Findings — 2022 c 245: "The legislature finds that equitable public policy discussions should include individuals directly impacted by that policy. In order to do so, the legislature supports removing barriers to that participation. The legislature finds that asking community members with lower financial means to volunteer their time and expertise while state employees and representatives of ...  app.leg.wa.gov |

More information on best practices, including amounts to pay are at: <https://ofm.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/resources/Interim%20Best%20Practices%20-%205793%20%28Compensation%20Bill%29%205.13.22.pdf>

Note the end of this document referring to ‘one-time events.

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| [Lived Experience Compensation - Washington](https://ofm.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/resources/Interim%20Best%20Practices%20-%205793%20%28Compensation%20Bill%29%205.13.22.pdf)  1. Paying community members directly a. An agency may develop a process to compensate community members directly. b. Follow OFM’s guidelines if a statewide vendor number is needed.  ofm.wa.gov |

That means that colleges may use state or local funding to pay these stipends. Stipends are considered income and may have an effect on a participant's eligibility for public assistance programs and financial aid, so colleges should be cautious not to negatively impact a student’s eligibility for other assistance.

Colleges’ business office/payroll office should be involved in the setup of these payments.