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**2019 Bill Watch for Student Services**

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| **Bill** | **Description** | **Position** | **Notes/Status** |
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| HB 1039 | **Opioid Medication**: Colleges with residence halls housing 100+ students must develop plans for administering opioid overdose medication in and around residence halls by the beginning of the 2019-20 academic year; fiscal of $307K for biennium (includes staff time, training, medication) | Neutral | Mostly deals with K-12, but requires colleges to develop a plan in place, including identification of dedicated personnel to be trained in administering medication; referred to House Healthcare and Wellness Committee, “do pass” recommendation to Appropriations; testimony included a UW person who indicated that free online training was available at the UW website |
| HB 1084 | **Compensation for Athletes**: student athletes can be compensated for the use of their image or likeness, and can have agents; attempts by athletic organizations to penalize athletes or colleges will be in violation of state trade and commerce laws | Concerns | Public universities oppose this strongly because it runs afoul of rules of NCAA amateurism; EOU, WSU and UW testified to that effect; we have the same concerns; no executive action taken yet, remains in College & Workforce Development Committee |
| HB 1123 | **CTC Tuition Waiver Program**: waives tuition for the first two years in a community or technical college if seeking a certificate or degree | Support | A pilot for 5 cities or counties, full funding of SNG at 100% of Median Family Income (MFI) (Washington Promise); no executive action taken yet, remains in College/Workforce Development Committee |
| HB 1164 | **Dual Credit Programs**: revises dual credit provisions, including increasing funding for College in the High School from 10 to 15 credits | Support | We testified in support at 1/28/19 public hearing in Committee on Education; no executive action taken yet, remains in committee of origin |
| HB 1178 | **Veteran Tuition Waivers**: revises definition of eligible veteran or national guardsperson for tuition waivers, can receive a general discharge under honorable conditions (currently must have an honorable discharge) | Support | We testified in support at 1/23/19 public hearing; “do pass” recommendation to Appropriations on 1/29/19 |
| HB 1201 | **National Guard Education Grants**: creates last-dollar grant program for national guardspersons | Support | We testified in support in Committee on Housing, Community Development, and Veterans on 1/30/19; “do pass” recommendation to Appropriations on 2/1/19 |
| HB 1278 | **College Bound Scholar Room and Board**: waives housing costs for homeless College Bound Scholars for 1 year | Support with concerns | “do pass” recommendation from College/Workforce Development Committee, unclear which committee referred to |
| HB 1300 | **Appropriations Bill**: funds 125 counselors at 900:1 ratio (see HB 1355), creates EDI office, increases faculty and staff pay, converts part-time instruction positions into full—time; $500M/biennium added to CTC regular budget | Support | Public hearing held 1/29/19, no executive action taken yet in College/Workforce Education Committee |
| SHB 1311 | **College Bound Scholarship**: Expands eligibility to 9th and 10th graders if family income declines and makes them eligible; also allows SNG for CBS students at 100% MFI | Support |  |
| HB 1340 | **Washington College Promise Scholarship**: fully funds State Need Grant | Support | Replaces SNG and fully funds it, creating an entitlement for eligible students; adds apprenticeship eligibility; “do pass” recommendation on substitute bill, goes to Appropriations next; substitute bill added two additional qualifications for eligibility: (1) a student needs to file an annual financial aid application; and (2) must not already have a bachelor's degree or higher; institutions are required to award all need-based financial aid for which a student qualifies, as determined by the institution |
| HB 1355 | **CTC Counselor Staffing Ratio**: requires 900:1 ratio of student headcount to counselor FTE, establishing minimum credential criteria (masters in counseling, practicum and internship, specific coursework) | Neutral with concerns | Concerns with costs--currently no appropriation tied to bill; fiscal is $21M for 267 counselors (full headcount) or $11M (state headcount); applies to state-funded positions only; HB 1300 provides partial funding but continues to specify “counselors”; public hearing held 1/29/19, testimony from President Stokes and Deputy Director Boesenberg with concerns; scheduled for Executive Action 2/19/19; substitute bill in development would create a taskforce to study the issue rather than implement a ratio |
| HB 1455 | **Aeronautics Industry**: creates loan/loan forgiveness program to incent enrollment of Washington residents in high demand programs | Neutral | Public hearing held in College/Workforce Development Committee on 1/30/19; no executive action yet |
| HB 1459 | **Running Start Summer Pilot**: students completing grade ten or eleven and eligible to enroll in grade eleven or twelve will be able to enroll in courses or programs offered by colleges during summer term | Support | No public hearing yet; referred to Education Committee |
| HB 1542 | **State Student Loan Program**: creates 1% interest loan program for resident students graduating from Washington high schools; funds program with increase in real estate excise tax | Neutral | In College/Workforce Development Committee, scheduled for executive action week of 2/11/19 |
| HB 1572 | **Pilot Student Homelessness Projects**: Establishes 4 CTC pilot programs, 2 colleges from the east side and 2 colleges from the west side of the state, to provide accommodations to students experiencing homelessness or students that were in the foster care system when they graduated HS. | Support with Concerns | “do pass” recommendation from College/Workforce Development Committee, destination committee unknown (possibly Appropriations); concerns about cost if no appropriation (our fiscal note is $548K for biennium) |
| HB 1688 | **Resident Student Veterans**: Requires a student who is entitled to federal Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Services benefits to receive in-state tuition at public higher education institutions. | Support | Referred to Appropriations with “do pass” recommendation from College/Workforce Development Committee on 2/8/19 |
| HB 1735 | **Guided Pathways, Student Success Courses, and Behavioral Health**: HB 1735 would fully fund Guided Pathways at all of our colleges, but would also require all colleges to have a mandatory, evidence-based student success class for all new students in their first term. The bill would further require that those classes be approved by SBCTC, in consultation with WSAC and organizations with expertise in this area. After 3 years, SBCTC would be required to contract with an evaluator with expertise in this area, to evaluate the “efficacy” of the course. The bill appropriates $37M each year of the 2019-21 biennium to do this, or roughly $1M per college. The bill also mandates – subject to funds available – that we contract with a behavioral health expert organization to develop a plan to expand behavioral health services, and requires that suicide hotline and other information be added to all newly issued student ID cards “to the extent practical.” | Support with Concerns | Sent to IC and WSSSC Executive Committees for input ASAP 2/8/19; having SBCTC approve the student success courses is problematic; SBCTC staff Arlen Harris and Carli Schiffner testified in House College and Workforce Development Committee on 2/12/19 supporting the guided pathways funding and expressing concern about the mandatory nature of the student success classes and the State Board’s approval role; no executive action scheduled currently |
| HB 1893 | **Postsecondary Student Assistance**: creates Emergency Assistance Grant Program for students; SBCTC will establish eligibility criteria in partnership with DSHS | Support | SBCTC staff Erin Frasier testified in support at public hearing of College/Workforce Development Committee on 2/13/19; executive action scheduled during the week of 2/18/19 |
| HB 1950 | **Free to Finish**: appropriates funding for last 15 credits | Support | SBCTC registered support for the bill at the Public Hearing in House College and Workforce Development Committee on 2/13/19 |
| HB 1973 | **Dual Credit Scholarship**: SBCTC in consultation with OSPI shall create the dual credit scholarship pilot program, administer the program and adopt rules; eligible students must qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, be enrolled in dual credit, and have a minimum 2.0 GPA | Support with Concerns | Bill language needs clean-up around the definition of dual credit and inclusion of CTE; since there are no fees for Running Start enrollment, it is unclear how the scholarship could be used for that purpose; bill language provides a textbook voucher for RS ($10 per credit up to 15 credits), which we support; Joe Holliday will testify in support in College/Workforce Development Committee on 2/19/19 requesting that WSAC administer the scholarship, not SBCTC, if the bill becomes law |
| HB 1998 | **Sexual Violence Taskforce**: creates legislative taskforce and adds higher education sector representatives, advocates, and survivors | Support | An effort to respond as necessary to changes in Title IX regulations; convenes in July 2019; Joe Holliday will testify in College/Workforce Development Committee on 2/19/19 |
| SB 5150 | **Community College Security**: allows safety and security officers to carry guns if trained or alternately for colleges to create commissioned police forces | Concerns | Our system advisory group issued a final report indicating that 13 of 17 members opposed the granting of this authority, and all system groups except for SSEM Council were either opposed or mixed; public hearing held in Higher Education Committee 1/31/19; substitute bill will limit authority to contracting with local police departments |
| SSB 5166 | **Postsecondary Religious Accommodations**: expands religious accommodations to tests and other academic requirements, and requires policy to be posted on websites and on all course syllabi; two week notice provision is unclear (“within two weeks of the beginning of the program”) | Concerns | “Face value” requirement could lead to student abuse of the accommodation; faculty may not support the requirement to add policy language to ALL course syllabi; substitute bill eliminates two-day maximum in current RCW; extensive testimony in favor, primarily by students and faculty of Muslim faith and Faith Action Network. Examples included fasting during Ramadan and Friday Noontime prayers. Do Pass referral from Higher Education Cmte to Ways & Means Cmte; referral by W & M to Rules Cmte “without recommendation” (split vote); SBCTC will communicate concerns to bill sponsor |
| SB 5197 | **National Guard Education Grants**: see HB 1201 | Support | “do pass” recommendation out of Higher Education Committee, now in Ways & Means |
| SB 5216 | **Multi-Stage Threat Assessment**: requires colleges to develop and implement a multistage threat assessment process meeting local safety needs and aligns with an evidence-based model  (a multistage structured team process that is used to evaluate the risk posed by a student or another person, typically as a response to an actual or perceived threat or concerning behavior. If the threat assessment indicates that there is a risk of violence in a specific situation, the team conducting the threat assessment must collaborate with others including the appropriate law enforcement agencies to develop and implement a plan to manage or reduce the threat posed by the student or another person) | Support | By December 31, 2019; elements must include:   1. based on behaviors 2. integrated into college’s existing support system 3. include engagement with families 4. take medical/psychological disabilities into consideration 5. coordinate with school districts if Running Start students   Public hearing in Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee 1/30/19; no executive action scheduled yet; our college Behavioral Intervention Teams (BITs) generally already use this process |
| SB 5231 | **Veterans Survivor Tuition Waiver**: Aligns the dependent eligibility for dependent waivers with the criteria for Chapter 35 - SURVIVORS’ AND DEPENDENTS’ EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE using criteria from38 U.S.C. Sec. 30 3512(a)(1)-(8) | Support | “do pass” referral from Higher Education Committee to Ways & Means |
| SB 5393 | **College Promise Scholarship**: see HB 1340 | Support | See HB 1340; “do pass” recommendation to Ways & Means |
| SB 5427 | **Dual Credit Programs**: see HB 1164 | Support | See HB 1164 |
| SB 5428 | **Higher Education Veteran Health**: requires 4-year public institutions to have a licensed mental health counselor with experience working with veterans | Support | Not applicable to our sector as currently written |
| SB 5464 | **Opioid Overdose Medications**: see HB 1039 | Neutral | See HB 1039; “do pass” recommendation to Ways & Means |
| SB 5477 | **Higher Education Application Fees**: colleges required to waive application fees for students in 12th grade whose families are eligible for free-and-reduced-lunch | Support with concerns | For colleges with application fees that depend on the revenue – considering the high number/percentage of FA-eligible students at CTCs – this would be a hit on budgets; “do pass” recommendation to Ways & Means |
| SB 5538 | **Free Speech**: free speech in outdoor areas of campus should be free (and not limited to one area) as long as lawful and not disruptive | Neutral | May require changes to college free speech policies and practices; testimony with concerns from independent and public universities; bill sponsor is open to revisions that limit bill provisions to “limited public forum” that retains advance notification, permits, etc. and limits it to groups affiliated with the institution or invited to campus; public hearing Higher Education Committee 1/29/19, no executive action yet |
| SB 5738 | **Homeless College Students**: Requires all CTC districts to develop a capital project plan by July 2021 to renovate or rehabilitate an existing building to provide accommodations for students experiencing homelessness. Renovation must be completed by July 1, 2023. | Concerns | Concerns about costs and about system-wide requirement rather than opt-in approach; public hearing in Higher Education Committee on 2.7.19, no executive action scheduled yet and no fiscal note available yet |
| SB 5755 | **Veteran/National Guard Waivers**: see HB 1178 | Support | See HB 1178 |
| SB 5774 | **Student Debt Relief**: creates a voluntary Income Sharing Agreement (ISA) program managed by WSAC that allows students to make student loan debt more manageable | Neutral |  |