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**SENATE BILL 5150**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Senator Wilson, L.

Prefiled 01/11/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to authority for providing security to the  
2 campuses of the state community and technical colleges; adding a new  
3 section to chapter 28B.050 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there is a  
6 public interest in protecting students at all levels of their  
7 education. The legislature also finds that there is an increasing  
8 atmosphere of societal unrest, especially on college campuses. The  
9 legislature also finds that the state universities, the regional  
10 universities, and The Evergreen State College are explicitly  
11 authorized to maintain a commissioned police force. The legislature  
12 also finds that the community and technical colleges have not been  
13 given the authority to maintain the same level of security as the  
14 universities. The legislature intends the community and technical  
15 colleges to also have broad options to protect their students and  
16 campuses in accordance with the recommendations issued by the mass  
17 shootings work group in 2018. Nothing in this section is intended to  
18 mandate how each college district chooses to protect its students,  
19 but instead is designed to clearly provide explicit authorization for  
20 the community and technical colleges to act as is appropriate for  
21 each college district to provide protection for students and faculty.

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

3        (1)    The board of trustees for each college district, acting  
4    independently, and each on behalf of its own college district, have  
5    the authority to protect each college campus in a manner and with  
6    personnel appropriate for that campus's culture and environment. Each  
7    board of trustees is authorized to:

8        (a)    Employ one or more school resource officers who are  
9    commissioned law enforcement officers of the state with sworn  
10   authority to make arrests, deployed in community-oriented policing,  
11   and assigned by a employing police department or sheriff's office to  
12   work with the appropriate personnel at the community and technical  
13   colleges to ensure the safety of the college campus;

14        (b)    Approve safety officers to carry weapons including, but not  
15   limited to, firearms after the officers have received appropriate  
16   training as determined by a council convened by the college board  
17   that provides systemwide support to colleges for issues related to  
18   campus safety, security, and emergency management;

19        (c)    Contract with local law enforcement agencies to provide  
20   security services for the college; or

21        (d)    At such a time as funds are available and the college  
22   district believes it is appropriate, establish a safety force  
23   comprised of officers that may be commissioned law enforcement  
24   officers and may carry weapons including, but not limited to,  
25   firearms.

26        (2)    Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
27   specific purpose, the state board for community and technical  
28   colleges and the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs  
29   shall develop a template contract and accompanying information to  
30   assist community and technical colleges in contracting for the  
31   provision of security under subsection (1)(a) and (c) of this  
32   section.

33        (3)    Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a cause  
34   of action against any community or technical college for choosing not  
35   to implement any of the above security measures.

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