

**VII. STANDING COMMITTEES****B. Finance, Audit and Facilities Committee**Revising and Establishing Selected Tuition Waivers as the Result of the Passage and Implementation of Substitute House Bill 1174RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is the recommendation of the Administration and of the Finance, Audit and Facilities Committee that the Board of Regents take the following actions under the new authority granted by SHB 1174 and the existing authority in RCW 28B.15.915:

Establish a new veterans' tuition waiver for: a) eligible veterans and national guard members; b) children and spouses of eligible veterans or national guard members determined to be prisoners of war or missing in action; and c) children and spouses of eligible veterans or national guard members who became totally disabled or deceased while engaged in active federal military or naval service. This veterans' tuition waiver will be established at an amount equivalent to 50% of resident tuition and fees. The tuition waiver will only be available to undergraduate students pursuing their first Bachelor's degree to a maximum of 225 college-level credits, including credits transferred from other institutions of higher education.

Authorize a new tuition waiver under RCW 28B.15.915 for Washington National Guard members who register no later than Spring Quarter 2006 and who no longer meet the requirements for qualification for "space available" tuition waivers for State employees. Under this waiver, these Washington National Guard members will be eligible for the space-available tuition exemption for up to 6 credits through the end of Spring Quarter 2009; and

Re-set the amount waived under RCW 28B.15.380 (Children of certain law enforcement officers or fire fighters) from 75% of resident or non-resident tuition and fees to an amount equivalent to 50% of resident tuition and fees for students who begin using the waiver in Summer Quarter 2006 or any time after that. This tuition waiver will only be available to undergraduate students pursuing their first Bachelor's degree to a maximum of 225 college-level credits, including credits transferred from other institutions of higher education.

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of this action item is to re-establish the tuition waiver framework that had been previously implemented for veterans' tuition waivers at the University

## VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

### B. Finance, Audit and Facilities Committee

#### Revising and Establishing Selected Tuition Waivers as the Result of the Passage and Implementation of Substitute House Bill 1174 (continued p. 2)

of Washington under the new legal structure imposed by SHB 1174. In order to insure consistency across tuition waiver categories, as part of this action the level of tuition waived under RCW 28B.15.380 for children of law enforcement officers and fire fighters killed or disabled in the line of duty is lowered to make the amount of tuition waived under that tuition waiver equal to the amount that is waived under the veterans' tuition waiver.

In the 2005 State legislative session, Substitute House Bill (SHB) 1174 was passed unanimously by the legislature and signed by the Governor. SHB 1174 revised provisions in State law related to tuition waivers for veterans and members of the National Guard. The provisions of SHB 1174 became effective on July 24, 2005.

SHB 1174 repealed the following waiver provisions under which the University of Washington had implemented tuition waivers:

RCW 28B.10.265 - Waiver from fees -- Children of certain citizens missing in action or prisoners of war.

RCW 28B.15.620 - Exemption from tuition and fees increase at institutions of higher education -- Vietnam veterans.

RCW 28B.15.628 - Waiver of tuition and fees increases at institutions of higher education -- Persian Gulf veterans.

SHB 1174 amended the following existing waiver provision:

RCW 28B.15.558 - Waiver of tuition and fees for state employees, veterans of the Korean conflict, and Washington National Guard members. The bill removed veterans of the Korean conflict and members of the Washington National Guard from eligibility for the "space available" tuition waiver currently provided to state employees.

SHB 1174 permissively authorizes a new veterans' tuition waiver for "eligible veterans or national guard members," which the bill defines as follows:

For the purposes of this section "eligible veteran or national guard member" means a Washington domiciliary who was an active or reserve member of the United States military or naval forces, or a national guard

## VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

### B. Finance, Audit and Facilities Committee

#### Revising and Establishing Selected Tuition Waivers as the Result of the Passage and Implementation of Substitute House Bill 1174 (continued p. 3)

member called to active duty, who served in active federal service, under either Title 10 or Title 32 of the United States Code, in a war or conflict fought on foreign soil or in international waters or in another location in support of those serving on foreign soil or in international waters, and if discharged from service, has received an honorable discharge.”

The bill also includes provisions allowing the following individuals to be eligible for a tuition waiver:

The child and the spouse of an eligible veteran or National Guard member who became totally disabled as defined in RCW 28B.15.385 while engaged in active federal military or naval service;

the child or spouse of an eligible veteran or National Guard member who is determined by the federal government to be a prisoner of war or missing in action; and

the child and the surviving spouse of an eligible veteran or National Guard member who lost his or her life while engaged in active federal military or naval service.

Finally, the bill authorizes a waiver for other military or naval veterans (i.e., veterans who do not meet the definition of “eligible veterans or national guard members” set forth above) who are Washington domiciliaries, but provides that there shall be no state general fund support for such waivers.