
HOUSE BILL 1723

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Ogden, Jacobsen, Wood, Spanel, Zellinsky, R. King, Roland, H. Myers and Fraser; by request of Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Read first time February 6, 1991. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington fund for excellence in higher
2 education program; adding a new chapter to Title 28B RCW; and creating
3 a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that encouraging
6 collaboration among the various educational sectors to meet state-wide
7 needs will strengthen the entire educational system, kindergarten
8 through twelfth grade and higher education. The legislature also
9 recognizes that the most effective way to develop innovative and
10 collaborative programs is to encourage institutions to develop them
11 voluntarily, in line with established state goals. Through a system of
12 competitive grants, the legislature shall encourage the development of
13 innovative and collaborative solutions to issues of critical state-wide
14 need, including:

- 1 (1) Improving rates of participation and completion at each
- 2 educational level;
- 3 (2) Recognizing needs of special populations of students;
- 4 (3) Improving the effectiveness of education by better coordinating
- 5 communication between sectors.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The Washington fund for excellence in
7 higher education program is established. The higher education
8 coordinating board shall administer the program. Through this program
9 the board may award on a competitive basis incentive grants to state
10 public institutions of higher education or consortia of institutions to
11 encourage cooperative programs designed to address specific system
12 problems. Grants shall not exceed a two-year period. Each institution
13 or consortia of institutions receiving the award shall contribute some
14 financial support, either by covering part of the costs for the program
15 during its implementation, or by assuming continuing support at the end
16 of the grant period. Strong priority will be given to proposals that
17 involve more than one sector of education, and to proposals that show
18 substantive institutional commitment. Institutions are encouraged to
19 solicit nonstate funds to support these cooperative programs.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The higher education coordinating board
21 shall have the following powers and duties in administering the
22 program:

- 23 (1) To adopt rules necessary to carry out the program;
- 24 (2) To establish one or more review committees to assist in the
- 25 evaluation of proposals for funding. The review committee shall
- 26 include individuals with significant experience in higher education in
- 27 areas relevant to one or more of the funding period priorities;

1 (3) To establish each biennium specific guidelines for submitting
2 grant proposals consistent with the overall goals of the program.
3 During the 1991-93 biennium the guidelines shall be consistent with the
4 following priorities: (a) Minority and diversity initiatives that
5 encourage the participation of minorities in higher education at a rate
6 consistent with their proportion of the population; (b) K-12 teacher
7 preparation models that encourage collaboration between higher
8 education and K-12 to improve the preparedness of teachers; and (c)
9 articulation and transfer activities to smooth the transfer of students
10 from K-12 to higher education, or from the community colleges to four-
11 year institutions. After June 30, 1993, and each biennium thereafter,
12 the board shall determine funding priorities for collaborative
13 proposals for the biennium in consultation with the governor, the
14 legislature, the office of the superintendent of public instruction,
15 the state board for community college education, the state board for
16 vocational education, higher education institutions, educational
17 associations, and business and community groups consistent with state-
18 wide needs;

19 (4) To solicit grant proposals and provide information to the
20 institutions of higher education about the program; and

21 (5) To establish reporting, monitoring, and dissemination
22 requirements for the recipients of the grants.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The higher education coordinating board may
24 solicit and receive such gifts, grants, and endowments from public or
25 private sources as may be made from time to time, in trust or
26 otherwise, for the use and benefit of the purposes of the program and
27 may expend the same or any income therefrom according to the terms of
28 the gifts, grants, or endowments.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The fund for excellence is hereby
2 established in the custody of the state treasurer. The higher
3 education coordinating board shall deposit in the fund all moneys
4 received under section 4 of this act. Moneys in the fund may be spent
5 only for the purposes of sections 2 and 3 of this act. Disbursements
6 from the fund shall be on the authorization of the higher education
7 coordinating board. The fund is subject to the allotment procedure
8 provided under chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for
9 disbursements.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 2 through 5 of this act shall
11 constitute a new chapter in Title 28B RCW.