
HOUSE BILL 2694

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Representatives Hansen, Magendanz, Zeiger, Walsh, Hargrove, Ormsby, Haler, Tharinger, and Freeman

Read first time 01/27/14. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to an informational program to increase
2 applications from high-achieving low-income high school students to
3 selective institutions of higher education; adding a new section to
4 chapter 28B.77 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that each year a
7 large number of high-achieving students from low-income families do not
8 apply to a selective college or university, even though they would have
9 a good chance of acceptance and success. At the same time, high-
10 achieving students from high-income families are very likely to apply
11 to selective colleges and universities.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.77 RCW
13 to read as follows:

14 (1) The council shall design and implement a program that provides
15 information to high-achieving, low-income high school students through
16 the mail, customized for each student, with the purpose of increasing
17 the number of applications from this group of students to selective

1 four-year institutions of higher education and independent, nonprofit
2 baccalaureate degree-granting institutions in the state.

3 (2) For the purposes of designing, developing, and implementing the
4 program, the council shall:

5 (a) Partner with a national entity that offers aptitude tests that
6 predict college success;

7 (b) Consult with four-year institutions of higher education and
8 independent, nonprofit baccalaureate degree-granting institutions with
9 physical locations in the state; and

10 (c) Seek opportunities for shared costs and resources with the
11 entities in (a) and (b) of this subsection and develop agreements with
12 these entities.

13 (3) The council shall identify high-achieving students based on
14 national aptitude test scores that predict college success. Scores on
15 AP, running start, and other dual credit programs may also be
16 considered if students do not take national aptitude tests.

17 (4) The council shall identify low-income students based on
18 eligibility for free or reduced-price lunches.

19 (5) The main component of the program is to mail a customized
20 information packet to high-achieving, low-income students. The packet
21 must include at a minimum:

22 (a) Materials that help students to choose colleges;

23 (b) An application guidance booklet;

24 (c) A nontransferable application fee waiver that qualifies each
25 student receiving a packet to apply for up to eight selective colleges
26 without paying application fees;

27 (d) Information on college affordability and financial aid that
28 includes customized information on the net cost of attendance for each
29 four-year institution of higher education and each nonprofit
30 baccalaureate degree-granting institution, and customized information
31 on merit and need-based aid from federal, state, and institutional
32 sources; and

33 (e) A personally addressed cover letter signed by the governor and
34 the president of each four-year institution of higher education and
35 nonprofit baccalaureate degree-granting institution in the state.

36 (6) The council shall provide each student with a personal password
37 to access a web site where the information contained in the mailed
38 packet, customized to the student, can be accessed.

1 (7) The council shall work with a third-party evaluator to provide
2 an evaluation of the program and make recommendations for improvement.

3 (8) The council shall implement the program no later than fall
4 2015, giving consideration to spring mailings in order to capture early
5 action decisions offered by institutions of higher education and
6 nonprofit baccalaureate degree-granting institutions.

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