
HOUSE BILL 1659

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Representatives Slatter, Sullivan, Leavitt, Ryu, Morgan, Berry, Ramel, Thai, Wicks, Sells, J. Johnson, Berg, Bateman, Valdez, Chopp, Walen, Fey, Goodman, Gregerson, Taylor, Macri, Simmons, Wylie, Kloba, Pollet, Ormsby, Harris-Talley, Hackney, and Frame

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1 AN ACT Relating to making higher education more affordable and
2 accessible for students by bridging the gap between cost and need to
3 reduce barriers, improve opportunity, and advance economic security;
4 amending RCW 28B.92.030 and 28B.92.205; adding a new section to
5 chapter 28B.92 RCW; creating a new section; and repealing RCW
6 28B.92.060, 28B.92.070, and 28B.92.110.

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that Washington is
9 not on track to meet the state's educational attainment goal that at
10 least 70 percent of adults, aged 25 to 44, have a postsecondary
11 credential by the year 2023. Adults without a postsecondary
12 credential are more at risk of unemployment, less likely to earn a
13 living wage, and more vulnerable to economic downturns. The student
14 achievement council has deemed that there are four areas essential to
15 achieve the state's 70 percent attainment goal: Affordability,
16 enrollment, completion, and student supports. In terms of
17 affordability, the legislature recognizes that the Washington college
18 grant is one of the country's largest and most generous financial aid
19 programs. However, the legislature also recognizes that despite an
20 increase in financial aid funding and eligibility, enrollments at
21 institutions of higher education are down due to the COVID-19

1 pandemic. Many prospective students have made the decision to delay
2 pursuing higher education for a myriad of reasons. However, fewer
3 enrollments mean fewer graduates going on to work in high paying
4 jobs, which could have a significant impact on the state's workforce
5 and economy in the future.

6 The legislature intends to continue to work towards making higher
7 education more affordable and accessible for the state's population
8 by expanding the Washington college grant program. In addition, the
9 legislature intends to provide additional support beyond tuition and
10 fees with the recognition that many students struggle to pay for
11 books, supplies, room and board, transportation, child care, and more
12 while pursuing their education. Grants beyond tuition and fees can
13 help bridge the gap for students who are struggling to pay for the
14 entire cost of attendance at an institution of higher education, and
15 are often the difference between a student staying enrolled and
16 completing his or her education and dropping out. Therefore, the
17 legislature intends to bridge the gap and support students by making
18 postsecondary education more affordable, encouraging more
19 enrollments, and helping students complete their credentials so
20 tomorrow's workforce and economy are stronger.

21 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.92.030 and 2019 c 406 s 21 are each amended to
22 read as follows:

23 As used in this chapter:

24 (1) "Bridge grant" means an annual stipend provided in addition
25 to the Washington college grant to provide supplementary financial
26 support to low-income students to cover higher education expenses
27 beyond tuition and fees, such as books, lab fees, supplies,
28 technology, transportation, housing, and child care.

29 (2) "Council" means the student achievement council.

30 ((+2)) (3) "Financial aid" means either loans, grants, or both,
31 to students who demonstrate financial need enrolled or accepted for
32 enrollment as a student at institutions of higher education.

33 ((+3)) (4) "Financial need" means a demonstrated financial
34 inability to bear the total cost of education as directed in rule by
35 the office.

36 ((+4)) (5) "Gift aid" means financial aid received, such as
37 grants, scholarships, or worker retraining assistance that provides
38 funds for educational purposes with no obligation of repayment. "Gift
39 aid" does not include student loans, work-study programs, the basic

1 food employment and training program administered by the department
2 of social and health services, or other employment assistance
3 programs that provide job readiness opportunities and support beyond
4 the costs of tuition, books, and fees.

5 (6) "Institution" or "institutions of higher education" means:

6 (a) Any public university, college, community college, or
7 technical college operated by the state of Washington or any
8 political subdivision thereof; ~~((or))~~

9 (b) Any other university, college, school, or institute in the
10 state of Washington offering instruction beyond the high school level
11 that is a member institution of an accrediting association recognized
12 by rule of the council for the purposes of this section and that
13 agrees to and complies with program rules adopted pursuant to RCW
14 28B.92.150. However, any institution, branch, extension or facility
15 operating within the state of Washington that is affiliated with an
16 institution operating in another state must be:

17 (i) A separately accredited member institution of any such
18 accrediting association;

19 (ii) A branch of a member institution of an accrediting
20 association recognized by rule of the council for purposes of this
21 section, that is eligible for federal student financial aid
22 assistance and has operated as a nonprofit college or university
23 delivering on-site classroom instruction for a minimum of ~~((twenty))~~
24 20 consecutive years within the state of Washington, and has an
25 annual enrollment of at least ~~((seven hundred))~~ 700 full-time
26 equivalent students; or

27 (iii) A nonprofit institution recognized by the state of
28 Washington as provided in RCW 28B.77.240; or

29 ~~((iv))~~ (c) An approved apprenticeship program under chapter
30 49.04 RCW.

31 ~~((5))~~ (7) "Maximum Washington college grant":

32 (a) For students attending two or four-year institutions of
33 higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, is tuition and
34 estimated fees for ~~((fifteen))~~ 15 quarter credit hours or the
35 equivalent, as determined by the office, including operating fees,
36 building fees, and services and activities fees.

37 (b) For students attending private four-year not-for-profit
38 institutions of higher education in Washington, in the 2019-20
39 academic year, is ~~((nine thousand seven hundred thirty-nine dollars))~~

1 \$9,739 and may increase each year afterwards by no more than the
2 tuition growth factor.

3 (c) For students attending two-year private not-for-profit
4 institutions of higher education in Washington, in the 2019-20
5 academic year, is (~~three thousand six hundred ninety-four dollars~~)
6 \$3,694 and may increase each year afterwards by no more than the
7 tuition growth factor.

8 (d) For students attending four-year private for-profit
9 institutions of higher education in Washington, in the 2019-20
10 academic year, is (~~eight thousand five hundred seventeen dollars~~)
11 \$8,517 and may increase each year afterwards by no more than the
12 tuition growth factor.

13 (e) For students attending two-year private for-profit
14 institutions of higher education in Washington, in the 2019-20
15 academic year, is (~~two thousand eight hundred twenty-three dollars~~)
16 \$2,823 and may increase each year afterwards by no more than the
17 tuition growth factor.

18 (f) For students attending Western Governors University-
19 Washington, as established in RCW 28B.77.240, in the 2019-20 academic
20 year, is (~~five thousand six hundred nineteen dollars~~) \$5,619 and
21 may increase each year afterwards by no more than the tuition growth
22 factor.

23 (g) For students attending approved apprenticeship programs, is
24 tuition and fees, as determined by the office, in addition to
25 required program supplies and equipment.

26 (~~(+6)~~) (8) "Office" means the office of student financial
27 assistance.

28 (~~(+7)~~) (9) "Tuition growth factor" means an increase of no more
29 than the average annual percentage growth rate of the median hourly
30 wage for Washington for the previous (~~fourteen~~) 14 years as the
31 wage is determined by the federal bureau of labor statistics.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.92
33 RCW to read as follows:

34 (1) As part of the Washington college grant program, all
35 Washington college grant recipients who qualify for the maximum
36 Washington college grant are entitled to also receive an annual
37 bridge grant.

38 (2) The office shall award bridge grants to eligible students
39 beginning with the 2022-23 academic year.

1 (a) For Washington college grant recipients who receive a maximum
2 award, but who are not recipients of the college bound scholarship
3 program under chapter 28B.118 RCW, the bridge grant shall be \$1,000,
4 prorated per term.

5 (b) For Washington college grant recipients who receive a maximum
6 award, but who are also recipients of the college bound scholarship
7 program under chapter 28B.118 RCW, the bridge grant shall be \$500,
8 prorated per term.

9 (3) To receive the full bridge grant for which the student
10 qualifies, the student needs to be enrolled in an institution of
11 higher education on at least a half-time basis. Students enrolled
12 less than half-time shall receive a prorated bridge grant.

13 (4) The bridge grant shall be applied to a student's financial
14 aid package after all other gift aid has been awarded to the student.

15 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28B.92.205 and 2019 c 406 s 20 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 In addition to other eligibility requirements outlined in this
18 chapter, students who demonstrate financial need are eligible to
19 receive the Washington college grant. Financial need is as follows:

20 (1) ~~((Until academic year 2020-21, students with family incomes~~
21 ~~between zero and fifty percent of the state median family income,~~
22 ~~adjusted for family size, shall receive the maximum Washington~~
23 ~~college grant as defined in RCW 28B.92.030. Grants for students with~~
24 ~~incomes between fifty-one and seventy percent of the state median~~
25 ~~family income, adjusted for family size, shall be prorated at the~~
26 ~~following percentages of the maximum Washington college grant amount:~~

27 ~~(a) Seventy percent for students with family incomes between~~
28 ~~fifty-one and fifty-five percent of the state median family income;~~

29 ~~(b) Sixty-five percent for students with family incomes between~~
30 ~~fifty-six and sixty percent of the state median family income;~~

31 ~~(c) Sixty percent for students with family incomes between sixty-~~
32 ~~one and sixty-five percent of the state median family income; and~~

33 ~~(d) Fifty percent for students with family incomes between sixty-~~
34 ~~six and seventy percent of the state median family income.~~

35 ~~(2))~~ Beginning with academic year ~~((2020-21))~~ 2022-23, students
36 with family incomes between zero and ~~((fifty-five))~~ 70 percent of the
37 state median family income, adjusted for family size, shall receive
38 the maximum Washington college grant as defined in RCW 28B.92.030.
39 Grants for students with incomes between ~~((fifty-six))~~ 71 and ~~((one~~

1 hundred)) 100 percent of the state median family income, adjusted for
2 family size, shall be prorated at the following percentages of the
3 maximum Washington college grant amount:

4 (a) (~~Seventy~~) Fifty percent for students with family incomes
5 between (~~fifty-six~~) 71 and (~~sixty~~) 80 percent of the state median
6 family income;

7 (b) (~~Sixty~~) Twenty-five percent for students with family
8 incomes between (~~sixty-one~~) 81 and (~~sixty-five~~) 90 percent of the
9 state median family income; and

10 (c) (~~Fifty percent for students with family incomes between~~
11 ~~sixty-six and seventy percent of the state median family income;~~

12 ~~(d) Twenty-four and one-half percent for students with family~~
13 ~~incomes between seventy-one and seventy-five percent of the state~~
14 ~~median family income; and~~

15 ~~(e))~~ Ten percent for students with family incomes between
16 (~~seventy-six~~) 91 and (~~one hundred~~) 100 percent of the state
17 median family income.

18 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. The following acts or parts of acts are
19 each repealed:

20 (1) RCW 28B.92.060 (State need grant awards) and 2019 c 298 s 4 &
21 2012 c 229 s 558;

22 (2) RCW 28B.92.070 (Persian Gulf veterans—Limited application of
23 RCW 28B.92.060) and 2012 c 229 s 559, 2004 c 275 s 38, & 1991 c 164 s
24 3; and

25 (3) RCW 28B.92.110 (Application of award) and 2009 c 238 s 10,
26 2004 c 275 s 40, & 1969 ex.s. c 222 s 16.

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