## SENATE BILL 5036

State of Washington54th Legislature1995 Regular SessionBy Senators Quigley, Haugen and Winsley

Read first time 01/09/95. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding access to higher education; amending 2 RCW 28B.10.808; and adding new sections to chapter 28B.10 RCW.

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

4 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10 RCW 5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Seventy percent of the state-appropriated funds for the state 7 financial aid program, other than those for the college work-study program established under chapter 28B.12 RCW and programs under 8 chapters 28B.101, 28B.102, 28B.104, 28B.107, and 28B.108 RCW, shall be 9 10 used for the state educational loan program. Such appropriated funds shall be deposited in the state educational loan account established in 11 12 section 2 of this act. Moneys in the loan account shall be used to 13 make guaranteed loans to needy or disadvantaged students, as defined in 14 RCW 28B.10.802 (3) and (4).

15 (2) The amount of the loans made under subsection (1) of this 16 section shall not exceed the demonstrated financial need of the 17 student. The board shall establish loan terms and conditions that are 18 consistent with terms of the guaranteed loan program established by 20 19 U.S.C. Sec. 1701 et seq. The terms and conditions established by the board shall allow interest accumulation on the loans to be deferred for
 one year following the recipient's cessation of full-time studies.

3 (3) All loans made under this section shall be guaranteed by the
4 Washington student loan guaranty association or its successor agency.
5 The board is hereby granted full authority to operate as an eligible
6 lender under the guaranteed loan program.

7 (4) Before approving a guaranteed loan, the board shall analyze the 8 ability of the student to repay the loan based on factors that include, 9 but are not limited to, the student's accumulated total education loan 10 burdens. The board shall direct institutions of higher education to 11 counsel students on the advisability of acquiring additional debt and 12 on the availability of other forms of financial aid.

(5) The board is responsible for collection of loans made under 13 subsection (1) of this section and shall exercise due diligence in such 14 15 collection, maintaining all necessary records to ensure that maximum repayments are made. The board shall cooperate with other lenders and 16 17 the Washington student loan guaranty association, or its successor agency, in the coordinated collection of guaranteed loans and shall 18 19 assure that the loans continue to meet guarantee requirements. 20 Collection and servicing of loans under subsection (1) of this section shall be performed by entities approved for such servicing by the 21 22 Washington student loan guaranty association or its successor agency. 23 The board may perform such servicing if specifically recognized to do 24 so by the Washington student loan guaranty association or its successor 25 agency.

(6) Receipts from payment of interest and principal or any other
subsidies to which the board as lender is entitled, that are paid by or
on behalf of borrowers of funds under subsection (1) of this section,
shall be deposited in the state general fund.

30 (7) The board shall maintain accurate records of the costs of 31 making the loans under subsection (1) of this section, including the 32 costs of recordkeeping and making collections under subsection (5) of 33 this section. The board shall endeavor to keep such costs as low as is 34 feasible and shall report such costs on an annual basis to the office 35 of financial management.

(8) Lending activities under this section shall make maximum use of
 secondary markets in the support of loan consolidation. No loans may
 be made to any student who is known by the board or by an institution

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of higher education to be in default or delinquent in the payment of an
 outstanding student loan.

3 (9) The board shall adopt necessary rules to implement this 4 section. The institutions of higher education shall cooperate fully 5 with the board in fulfilling the provisions of this section, RCW 6 28B.10.808, and section 2 of this act.

7 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 28B.10 RCW 8 to read as follows:

9 The state educational loan account is hereby established in the state treasury. Seventy percent of all state-appropriated funds for 10 the state financial aid program, other than those for the college work-11 12 study program established under chapter 28B.12 RCW and programs under chapters 28B.101, 28B.102, 28B.104, 28B.107, and 28B.108 RCW, shall be 13 deposited in this account. Expenditures from this account shall be for 14 15 guaranteed student loans to needy or disadvantaged students pursuant to 16 section 1 of this act. The board may authorize expenditures from this account. The board shall deposit any refunds or returns of unused 17 18 portions of student loans in this account. All earnings of investments of balances in the state educational loan account shall be credited to 19 the general fund. Receipts from the payment of interest or principal 20 21 or any other subsidies that are paid by or on behalf of borrowers of 22 funds provided through this account shall be deposited in the general 23 fund.

24 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.10.808 and 1991 c 164 s 4 are each amended to read 25 as follows:

In awarding grants, the ((commission)) <u>board</u> shall proceed substantially as follows: PROVIDED, That nothing contained herein shall be construed to prevent the ((commission)) <u>board</u>, in the exercise of its sound discretion, from following another procedure when the best interest of the program so dictates:

(1) The ((commission)) <u>board</u> shall annually select the financial aid award winners from among Washington residents applying for student financial aid who have been ranked according to financial need as determined by the amount of the family contribution and other considerations brought to the ((commission's)) <u>board's</u> attention.

36 (2) The financial need of the highest ranked students shall be met37 by grants depending upon the evaluation of financial need until the

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1 total allocation has been disbursed. <u>However, no individual student</u> 2 <u>may receive more than two-thirds of his or her total state financial</u> 3 <u>aid program award, yearly, in the form of grants. At least one-third</u> 4 <u>of each student's total state financial aid program award, yearly,</u> 5 <u>shall be in the form of loans.</u> Funds from grants which are declined, 6 forfeited or otherwise unused shall be reawarded until dispersed.

7 (3) A grant may be renewed until the course of study is completed, 8 but not for more than an additional four academic years beyond the 9 first year of the award. These shall not be required to be consecutive 10 years. Oualifications for renewal will include maintaining satisfactory academic standing toward completion of the course of 11 study, and continued eligibility as determined by the ((commission)) 12 13 board. Should the recipient terminate his or her enrollment for any reason during the academic year, the unused portion of the grant shall 14 15 be returned to the state educational grant fund by the institution 16 according to the institution's own policy for issuing refunds, except 17 as provided in RCW 28B.10.8081.

18 (4) In computing financial need the ((commission)) board shall 19 determine a maximum student expense budget allowance, not to exceed an 20 amount equal to the total maximum student expense budget at the public 21 institutions plus the current average state appropriation per student 22 for operating expense in the public institutions.

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