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HOUSE BILL 1055

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Radcliff, Dunn, Carlson, Dickerson, Hatfield, Conway, Quall, Mason, Costa, Ogden, Anderson and O'Brien; by request of Higher Education Coordinating Board

Read first time 01/13/97. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to undergraduate fellowships for needy and  
2 meritorious students; and adding a new chapter to Title 28B RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that quality in  
5 the state's public four-year institutions of higher education would be  
6 strengthened by additional partnerships between citizens and the  
7 institutions. The legislature intends to foster these partnerships by  
8 creating a matching grant program to assist public four-year  
9 institutions of higher education in creating endowments for funding  
10 fellowships for needy and meritorious undergraduate students.  
11 "Meritorious students" includes but is not limited to needy students  
12 with 3.00 or above grade point average or involvement in community or  
13 campus activities.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The Washington undergraduate fellowship  
15 trust fund program is established. The program shall be administered  
16 by the higher education coordinating board. The trust fund shall be  
17 administered by the state treasurer.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    Funds appropriated by the legislature for  
2 the undergraduate fellowship program shall be deposited in the  
3 undergraduate fellowship trust fund. At the request of the higher  
4 education coordinating board under section 5 of this act, the treasurer  
5 shall release the state matching funds to the designated institution's  
6 local endowment fund. No appropriation is required for expenditures  
7 from the fund.

8        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    In consultation with eligible institutions  
9 of higher education, the higher education coordinating board shall set  
10 guidelines for the undergraduate fellowship program. These guidelines  
11 may include an allocation system based on factors which include but are  
12 not limited to: The amount of money available in the trust fund;  
13 characteristics of the institutions including the size of the faculty  
14 and student body; and the number of fellowships previously received.

15        Any allocation system shall be superseded by conditions in any  
16 legislative act appropriating funds for the program.

17        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    (1) All state four-year institutions of  
18 higher education shall be eligible for matching trust funds.  
19 Institutions may apply to the higher education coordinating board for  
20 twenty-five thousand dollars from the fund when they can match the  
21 state funds with equal pledged or contributed private donations. These  
22 donations shall be made specifically to the undergraduate fellowship  
23 program, and shall be donated after July 1, 1997.

24        (2) Upon an application by an institution, the board may designate  
25 twenty-five thousand dollars from the trust fund for that institution's  
26 pledged undergraduate fellowship fund. If the pledged twenty-five  
27 thousand dollars is not received within two years, the board shall make  
28 the designated funds available for another pledged undergraduate  
29 fellowship fund.

30        (3) Once the private donation is received by the institution, the  
31 higher education coordinating board shall ask the state treasurer to  
32 release the state matching funds to a local endowment fund established  
33 by the institution for the undergraduate fellowships.

34        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**    (1) The undergraduate fellowship provided  
35 under this chapter is the property of the institution and may be named

1 in honor of a donor, benefactor, or honoree of the institution, at the  
2 option of the institution.

3 (2) The institution is responsible for soliciting private  
4 donations, investing and maintaining all endowment funds, administering  
5 the fellowship, and reporting on the program to the governor and the  
6 legislature upon request. The institution may augment the endowment  
7 fund with additional private donations. The principal of the invested  
8 endowment fund shall not be invaded.

9 (3) The proceeds from the endowment fund may be used to provide  
10 fellowship stipends to be used by the recipient for such things as  
11 tuition and fees, subsistence, research expenses, and other  
12 educationally related costs.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Any private or public money, including all  
14 investment income, deposited in the Washington undergraduate fellowship  
15 trust fund or any local endowment for fellowship programs shall not be  
16 subject to collective bargaining.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** (1) After consulting with the higher  
18 education coordinating board and the state four-year institutions of  
19 higher education, the governor may transfer the administration of this  
20 program to another agency that has an appropriate educationally related  
21 mission.

22 (2) By December 1, 1999, the higher education coordinating board  
23 and any agency administering this program, if applicable, shall make  
24 recommendations to the governor and the legislature on any needed  
25 changes in the program.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Sections 1 through 8 of this act shall  
27 constitute a new chapter in Title 28B RCW.

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