
SENATE BILL 6237

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen, Patterson and Brown

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to scholarships for foster care children; adding
2 new sections to chapter 28B.95 RCW; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.95 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 The legislature finds that children in foster care after the age of
7 six face many challenges as they strive towards success as adults. The
8 legislature also finds that fewer foster care children are adopted when
9 they are six years of age or older. The chance for the future program
10 is created to help foster children in the state of Washington who have
11 been adopted when they are six years of age or older. The purpose of
12 this program is to help give children in foster care who are adopted
13 after the age of six hope for the future and an opportunity for
14 success.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.95 RCW
16 to read as follows:

17 (1) When a child six years of age or older who has been placed in
18 foster care in the state of Washington is adopted, the higher education

1 coordinating board shall, to the extent funds are appropriated or
2 donated, purchase tuition units for the child for use as a scholarship
3 under RCW 28B.95.040. If funds are available, the scholarship shall be
4 purchased for the tuition units for four full years of full-time
5 tuition and fee charges in an amount sufficient for the recipient to
6 attend any state institution of higher education.

7 (2) The higher education coordinating board shall make the
8 scholarship available to the recipient when the recipient enrolls in an
9 institution of higher education. If the recipient has not enrolled in
10 an institution of higher education before the recipient's twenty-first
11 birthday, the tuition units shall be used to provide scholarship
12 benefits for other recipients eligible under this section. Any unused
13 tuition units shall be used to provide scholarship benefits for other
14 recipients eligible under this section.

15 (3) The higher education coordinating board shall work with the
16 department of social and health services to notify recipients and their
17 adoptive parents about the scholarship benefits under this section.

18 (4) The higher education coordinating board may receive gifts,
19 grants, or endowments from public or private sources that are made from
20 time to time, in trust or otherwise for the use and benefit of the
21 scholarship program under this section and may spend gifts, grants, or
22 endowments or income from the public or private sources according to
23 their terms.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of three million one hundred eleven
25 thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
26 appropriated from the general fund to the higher education coordinating
27 board for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999, to carry out the
28 purposes of this act.

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