
BILL REQUEST - CODE REVISER'S OFFICE

BILL REQ. #: S-4565.1/02

ATTY/TYPIST: SCG:mos

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

2 **2SHB 2534** - S COMM AMD
3 By Committee on Higher Education

4

5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
6 following:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** FINDING--INTENT. The legislature finds
8 that financially needy students, especially those with dependents, are
9 finding it increasingly difficult to stay in school due to the high
10 costs of caring for their dependent children.

11 The legislature intends to establish an educational assistance
12 grant program, funded through gifts, grants, or endowments from private
13 sources, for students with dependents who have additional financial
14 needs due to the care they provide for their dependents eighteen years
15 of age or younger.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** PROGRAM CREATED. The educational assistance
17 grant program for students with dependents is hereby created, subject
18 to the availability of receipts of gifts, grants, or endowments from
19 private sources. The program is created to serve financially needy
20 students with dependents eighteen years of age or younger, by assisting
21 them directly through a grant program to pursue a degree or certificate
22 at public or private institutions of higher education, as defined in
23 RCW 28B.10.802, that participate in the state need grant program.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** DEFINITION--ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible for
25 the educational assistance grant program for students with dependents,
26 applicants shall: (1) Be residents of the state of Washington; (2) be
27 needy students as defined in RCW 28B.10.802(3); (3) be eligible to
28 participate in the state need grant program as set forth under RCW
29 28B.10.810; and (4) have dependents eighteen years of age or younger
30 who are under their care.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** ACCOUNT CREATION. (1) The students with
32 dependents grant account is created in the custody of the state
33 treasurer. All receipts from the program shall be deposited into the

1 account. Only the higher education coordinating board, or its
2 designee, may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is
3 subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but no
4 appropriation is required for expenditures.

5 (2) The board may solicit and receive gifts, grants, or endowments
6 from private sources that are made from time to time, in trust or
7 otherwise, for the use and benefit of the purposes of the educational
8 assistance grant program. The executive director, or the executive
9 director's designee, may spend gifts, grants, or endowments or income
10 from the private sources according to their terms unless the receipt of
11 the gifts, grants, or endowments violates RCW 42.17.710.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM--PAYMENTS TO
13 PARTICIPANTS. The higher education coordinating board shall develop
14 and administer the educational assistance grant program for students
15 with dependents. The higher education coordinating board shall adopt
16 necessary rules and guidelines and develop criteria and procedures to
17 identify eligible participants in the program.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** USE OF GRANTS. The educational assistance
19 grant program for students with dependents grants may be used by
20 eligible participants to attend any public or private college or
21 university in the state of Washington as defined in RCW 28B.10.802.
22 The participant is not eligible for a grant if the grant will be used
23 to pursue a degree in theology. Each participating student may receive
24 an amount to be determined by the higher education coordinating board,
25 with a minimum amount of one thousand dollars per academic year, not to
26 exceed the student's documented financial need for the course of study
27 as determined by the institution.

28 Educational assistance grants for students with dependents are not
29 intended to supplant any grant scholarship or tax program related to
30 postsecondary education. If the higher education coordinating board
31 finds that the educational assistance grants for students with
32 dependents supplant or reduce any grant, scholarship, or tax program
33 for categories of students, then the higher education coordinating
34 board shall adjust the financial eligibility criteria or the amount of
35 the grant to the level necessary to avoid supplanting.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This chapter may be known and cited as the
2 gaining independence for students with dependents program.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** A new section is added to chapter 74.04 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 For purposes of RCW 74.04.005 (10) and (11), "resource" and
6 "income" do not include educational assistance awarded under the
7 gaining independence for students with dependents program as defined in
8 this act for recipients of temporary assistance for needy families.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Captions used in this act are not any part
10 of the law.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** Sections 1 through 7 and 9 of this act
12 constitute a new chapter in Title 28B RCW.

13 **Sec. 11.** RCW 28B.10.801 and 1999 c 345 s 1 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (1) The legislature finds that the higher education coordinating
16 board, in consultation with the higher education community, has
17 completed a review of the state need grant program. It is the intent
18 of the legislature to endorse the board's proposed changes to the state
19 need grant program, including:

20 (a) Reaffirmation that the primary purpose of the state need grant
21 program is to assist low-income, needy, and disadvantaged Washington
22 residents attending institutions of higher education;

23 (b) A goal that the base state need grant amount over time be
24 increased to be equivalent to the rate of tuition charged to resident
25 undergraduate students attending Washington state public colleges and
26 universities;

27 (c) State need grant recipients be required to contribute a portion
28 of the total cost of their education through self-help;

29 (d) State need grant recipients be required to document their need
30 for dependent care assistance after taking into account other public
31 funds provided for like purposes; and

32 (e) Institutional aid administrators be allowed to determine
33 whether a student eligible for a state need grant in a given academic
34 year may remain eligible for the ensuing year if the student's family
35 income increases by no more than a marginal amount except for funds

1 provided through the educational assistance grant program for students
2 with dependents.

3 (2) The legislature further finds that the higher education
4 coordinating board, under its authority to implement the proposed
5 changes in subsection (1) of this section, should do so in a timely
6 manner.

7 (3) The legislature also finds that:

8 (a) In most circumstances, need grant eligibility should not extend
9 beyond five years or one hundred twenty-five percent of the published
10 length of the program in which the student is enrolled or the credit or
11 clock-hour equivalent; and

12 (b) State financial aid programs should continue to adhere to the
13 principle that funding follows resident students to their choice of
14 institution of higher education."

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18 On page 1, line 3 of the title, after "dependents;" strike the
19 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 28B.10.801; adding a
20 new section to chapter 74.04 RCW; and adding a new chapter to Title 28B
21 RCW."

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