

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SB 5699

As Reported by House Committee On:
Education

Title: An act relating to the Washington state scholars program.

Brief Description: Modifying the Washington state scholars program.

Sponsors: Senators Carlson, Benton, Honeyford, Hale and Zarelli.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Education: 2/20/02, 2/21/02 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Students who reside in Washington and commute to a private high school in Oregon or Idaho may be considered for an award in the Washington Scholars Program.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 7 members: Representatives Quall, Chair; Haigh, Vice Chair; Talcott, Ranking Minority Member; McDermott, Santos, Schindler and Schmidt.

Minority Report: Without recommendation. Signed by 3 members: Representatives Anderson, Rockefeller and Upthegrove.

Staff: Susan Morrissey (786-7111).

Background:

The 1981 Legislature created the Washington Scholars Program to recognize and honor three high school seniors from each legislative district for their outstanding academic achievement, leadership ability, and community service. Students attending public and private high schools in the state may participate in the program.

In 1984 the scholars were given a four year tuition and fee waiver for undergraduate

work in the state's public colleges and universities. In 1988 the law was expanded to include a comparable grant for scholars attending the state's private colleges and universities. For students attending a private college, the grant may not exceed the yearly, full-time resident, undergraduate tuition and fees charged at public research universities, and must be matched by the private school with institutional funds. During the 1990s, the grant program was expanded to include students attending public or private colleges and universities in the state. At that point, the tuition and fee waiver at public colleges became optional.

The Washington Scholars Program is administered by the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) in cooperation with the Washington Association of Secondary School Principals. Students are nominated by the principal of the students' high schools.

Summary of Bill:

Students who reside in Washington and commute to a private high school in Oregon or Idaho may participate in the Washington Scholars Program. The selection process for these students is identical to the selection process for students attending a high school in Washington. Principals of the Oregon or Idaho private high school will submit nominations to the Washington Association of Secondary Principals. The association will forward the nominations to the Higher Education Coordinating Board, along with the names submitted by principals of Washington high schools.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: Students who live in border counties sometimes commute from their homes in Washington to schools in Oregon and Idaho. A number of these students are outstanding scholars who are active in community organizations and demonstrate the types of leadership qualities that would make them eligible to compete for the Washington Scholars Award if they were attending a high school a few miles away. This legislation simply allows these students to compete with other outstanding students for the award.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Senator Carlson, prime sponsor.