
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1236

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By House Higher Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Ortiz-Self, Johnson, Santos, Lytton, Moscoso, Pettigrew, Walkinshaw, Kilduff, Sawyer, Reykdal, Bergquist, Fey, Tarleton, and Hudgins)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/15.

1 AN ACT Relating to eliminating the parent or guardian approval
2 requirement for the college bound scholarship pledge; amending RCW
3 28B.118.040; and reenacting and amending RCW 28B.118.010.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.118.010 and 2012 c 229 s 402 and 2012 c 163 s 8
6 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

7 The office of student financial assistance shall design the
8 Washington college bound scholarship program in accordance with this
9 section and in alignment with the state need grant program in chapter
10 28B.92 RCW unless otherwise provided in this section.

11 (1) "Eligible students" are those students who:

12 (a) Qualify for free or reduced-price lunches. If a student
13 qualifies in the seventh grade, the student remains eligible even if
14 the student does not receive free or reduced-price lunches
15 thereafter; or

16 (b) Are dependent pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW and:

17 (i) In grade seven through twelve; or

18 (ii) Are between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one and have not
19 graduated from high school.

20 (2) Eligible students and the students' parents or guardians
21 shall be notified of (~~their~~) the student's eligibility for the

1 Washington college bound scholarship program beginning in (~~their~~)
2 the student's seventh grade year. Students and the students' parents
3 or guardians shall also be notified of the requirements for award of
4 the scholarship.

5 (3)(a) To be eligible for a Washington college bound scholarship,
6 a student eligible under subsection (1)(a) of this section must sign
7 a pledge during seventh or eighth grade that includes a commitment to
8 graduate from high school with at least a C average and with no
9 felony convictions. The pledge must be witnessed by a parent or
10 guardian and forwarded to the office of student financial assistance
11 by mail or electronically, as indicated on the pledge form.

12 (b)(i) Beginning in the 2015-16 academic year, the office of
13 student financial assistance shall make multiple attempts to secure
14 the signature of the student's parent or guardian for the purpose of
15 witnessing the pledge.

16 (ii) If the signature of the student's parent or guardian is not
17 obtained, the office of student financial assistance may partner with
18 the school counselor or administrator to secure the parent's or
19 guardian's signature to witness the pledge.

20 (iii) If a parent's or guardian's signature is still not
21 obtained, the school counselor or administrator may witness the
22 pledge and indicate to the office of student financial assistance the
23 nature of the unsuccessful efforts to contact the student's parent or
24 guardian.

25 (c) A student eligible under subsection (1)(b) of this section
26 shall be automatically enrolled, with no action necessary by the
27 student or the student's family, and the enrollment form must be
28 forwarded by the department of social and health services to the
29 (~~higher education coordinating board or its successor~~) office of
30 student financial assistance by mail or electronically, as indicated
31 on the form.

32 (4)(a) Scholarships shall be awarded to eligible students
33 graduating from public high schools, approved private high schools
34 under chapter 28A.195 RCW, or who received home-based instruction
35 under chapter 28A.200 RCW.

36 (b) To receive the Washington college bound scholarship, a
37 student must graduate with at least a "C" average from a public high
38 school or an approved private high school under chapter 28A.195 RCW
39 in Washington or have received home-based instruction under chapter

1 28A.200 RCW, must have no felony convictions, and must be a resident
2 student as defined in RCW 28B.15.012(2) (a) through (d).

3 (5) A student's family income will be assessed upon graduation
4 before awarding the scholarship.

5 (6) If at graduation from high school the student's family income
6 does not exceed sixty-five percent of the state median family income,
7 scholarship award amounts shall be as provided in this section.

8 (a) For students attending two or four-year institutions of
9 higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, the value of the award
10 shall be (i) the difference between the student's tuition and
11 required fees, less the value of any state-funded grant, scholarship,
12 or waiver assistance the student receives; (ii) plus five hundred
13 dollars for books and materials.

14 (b) For students attending private four-year institutions of
15 higher education in Washington, the award amount shall be the
16 representative average of awards granted to students in public
17 research universities in Washington.

18 (c) For students attending private vocational schools in
19 Washington, the award amount shall be the representative average of
20 awards granted to students in public community and technical colleges
21 in Washington.

22 (7) Recipients may receive no more than four full-time years'
23 worth of scholarship awards.

24 (8) Institutions of higher education shall award the student all
25 need-based and merit-based financial aid for which the student would
26 otherwise qualify. The Washington college bound scholarship is
27 intended to replace unmet need, loans, and, at the student's option,
28 work-study award before any other grants or scholarships are reduced.

29 (9) The first scholarships shall be awarded to students
30 graduating in 2012.

31 (10) The state of Washington retains legal ownership of tuition
32 units awarded as scholarships under this chapter until the tuition
33 units are redeemed. These tuition units shall remain separately held
34 from any tuition units owned under chapter 28B.95 RCW by a Washington
35 college bound scholarship recipient.

36 (11) The scholarship award must be used within five years of
37 receipt. Any unused scholarship tuition units revert to the
38 Washington college bound scholarship account.

39 (12) Should the recipient terminate his or her enrollment for any
40 reason during the academic year, the unused portion of the

1 scholarship tuition units shall revert to the Washington college
2 bound scholarship account.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.118.040 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 228 are each
4 amended to read as follows:

5 The office of student financial assistance shall:

6 (1) With the assistance of the office of the superintendent of
7 public instruction, implement and administer the Washington college
8 bound scholarship program;

9 (2) Develop and distribute, to all schools with students enrolled
10 in grade seven or eight, a pledge form that can be completed and
11 returned electronically or by mail by the student or the school to
12 the office of student financial assistance;

13 (3) Develop and implement a student application, selection, and
14 notification process for scholarships;

15 (4) Track scholarship recipients to ensure continued eligibility
16 and determine student compliance for awarding of scholarships;

17 (5) Subject to appropriation, deposit funds into the state
18 educational trust fund;

19 (6) Purchase tuition units under the advanced college tuition
20 payment program in chapter 28B.95 RCW to be owned and held in trust
21 by the (~~board~~) office of student financial assistance, for the
22 purpose of scholarship awards as provided for in this section; and

23 (7) Distribute scholarship funds, in the form of tuition units
24 purchased under the advanced college tuition payment program in
25 chapter 28B.95 RCW or through direct payments from the state
26 educational trust fund, to institutions of higher education on behalf
27 of scholarship recipients identified by the office, as long as
28 recipients maintain satisfactory academic progress.

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