
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
2 ~~((their))~~the student's seventh grade year. Students and the students'
3 parents or guardians shall also be notified of the requirements for
4 award of 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. Beginning
12 in the 2015-16 academic year, if a parent or guardian is unavailable
13 to witness the pledge, then a school counselor or administrator may
14 witness the pledge instead.

15 (b) A student eligible under subsection (1)(b) of this section
16 shall be automatically enrolled, with no action necessary by the
17 student or the student's family, and the enrollment form must be
18 forwarded by the department of social and health services to the
19 ~~((higher education coordinating board or its successor))~~office of
20 student financial assistance by mail or electronically, as indicated
21 on the form.

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

26 (b) To receive the Washington college bound scholarship, a
27 student must graduate with at least a "C" average from a public high
28 school or an approved private high school under chapter 28A.195 RCW
29 in Washington or have received home-based instruction under chapter
30 28A.200 RCW, must have no felony convictions, and must be a resident
31 student as defined in RCW 28B.15.012(2) (a) through (d).

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

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

37 (a) For students attending two or four-year institutions of
38 higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, the value of the award
39 shall be (i) the difference between the student's tuition and
40 required fees, less the value of any state-funded grant, scholarship,

1 or waiver assistance the student receives; (ii) plus five hundred
2 dollars for books and materials.

3 (b) For students attending private four-year institutions of
4 higher education in Washington, the award amount shall be the
5 representative average of awards granted to students in public
6 research universities in Washington.

7 (c) For students attending private vocational schools in
8 Washington, the award amount shall be the representative average of
9 awards granted to students in public community and technical colleges
10 in Washington.

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

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

18 (9) The first scholarships shall be awarded to students
19 graduating in 2012.

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

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

28 (12) Should the recipient terminate his or her enrollment for any
29 reason during the academic year, the unused portion of the
30 scholarship tuition units shall revert to the Washington college
31 bound scholarship account.

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

34 The office of student financial assistance shall:

35 (1) With the assistance of the office of the superintendent of
36 public instruction, implement and administer the Washington college
37 bound scholarship program;

38 (2) Develop and distribute, to all schools with students enrolled
39 in grade seven or eight, a pledge form that can be completed and

1 returned electronically or by mail by the student or the school to
2 the office of student financial assistance;

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

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

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

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

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

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