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ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1236

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 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 02/05/16.

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

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.118.010 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 36 s 8 are each  
6 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 2016-17 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. The school counselor or  
20 administrator shall make multiple attempts via all phone numbers,  
21 email addresses, and mailing addresses on record to secure the  
22 parent's or guardian's signature.

23 (iii) If a parent's or guardian's signature is still not  
24 obtained, the school counselor or administrator shall indicate to the  
25 office of student financial assistance the nature of the unsuccessful  
26 efforts to contact the student's parent or guardian and the reasons  
27 the signature is not available. Then the school counselor or  
28 administrator may witness the pledge unless the parent or guardian  
29 has indicated that he or she does not wish for the student to  
30 participate in the program.

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

38 (4)(a) Scholarships shall be awarded to eligible students  
39 graduating from public high schools, approved private high schools

1 under chapter 28A.195 RCW, or who received home-based instruction  
2 under chapter 28A.200 RCW.

3 (b)(i) To receive the Washington college bound scholarship, a  
4 student must graduate with at least a "C" average from a public high  
5 school or an approved private high school under chapter 28A.195 RCW  
6 in Washington or have received home-based instruction under chapter  
7 28A.200 RCW, must have no felony convictions, and must be a resident  
8 student as defined in RCW 28B.15.012(2) (a) through (d).

9 (ii) For a student who does not meet the "C" average requirement,  
10 and who completes fewer than two quarters in the running start  
11 program, under chapter 28A.600 RCW, the student's first quarter of  
12 running start course grades must be excluded from the student's  
13 overall grade point average for purposes of determining their  
14 eligibility to receive the scholarship.

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

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

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

26 (b) For students attending private four-year institutions of  
27 higher education in Washington, the award amount shall be the  
28 representative average of awards granted to students in public  
29 research universities in Washington or the representative average of  
30 awards granted to students in public research universities in  
31 Washington in the 2014-15 academic year, whichever is greater.

32 (c) For students attending private vocational schools in  
33 Washington, the award amount shall be the representative average of  
34 awards granted to students in public community and technical colleges  
35 in Washington or the representative average of awards granted to  
36 students in public community and technical colleges in Washington in  
37 the 2014-15 academic year, whichever is greater.

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

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

6 (9) The first scholarships shall be awarded to students  
7 graduating in 2012.

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

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

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

20 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.118.040 and 2015 c 244 s 4 are each amended to  
21 read as follows:

22 The office of student financial assistance shall:

23 (1) With the assistance of the office of the superintendent of  
24 public instruction, implement and administer the Washington college  
25 bound scholarship program;

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

30 (3) Develop and implement a student application, selection, and  
31 notification process for scholarships, which includes working with  
32 other state agencies, law enforcement, or the court system to verify  
33 that eligible students do not have felony convictions;

34 (4) Annually in March, with the assistance of the office of the  
35 superintendent of public instruction, distribute to tenth grade  
36 college bound scholarship students and their families: (a)  
37 Notification that, to qualify for the scholarship, a student's family  
38 income may not exceed sixty-five percent of the state median family  
39 income at graduation from high school; (b) the current year's value

1 for sixty-five percent of the state median family income; and (c) a  
2 statement that a student should consult their school counselor if  
3 their family makes, or is projected to make, more than this value  
4 before the student graduates;

5 (5) Develop comprehensive social media outreach with grade-level  
6 specific information designed to keep students on track to graduate  
7 and leverage current tools such as the high school and beyond plan  
8 required by the state board of education and the ready set grad web  
9 site maintained by the student achievement council;

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

12 (7) Within existing resources, collaborate with college access  
13 providers and K-12, postsecondary, and youth-serving organizations to  
14 map and coordinate mentoring and advising resources across the state;

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

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

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

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