
SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1236

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

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

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

20 (b) For students attending private four-year institutions of
21 higher education in Washington, the award amount shall be the
22 representative average of awards granted to students in public
23 research universities in Washington.

24 (c) For students attending private vocational schools in
25 Washington, the award amount shall be the representative average of
26 awards granted to students in public community and technical colleges
27 in Washington.

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

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

35 (9) The first scholarships shall be awarded to students
36 graduating in 2012.

37 (10) The state of Washington retains legal ownership of tuition
38 units awarded as scholarships under this chapter until the tuition
39 units are redeemed. These tuition units shall remain separately held

1 from any tuition units owned under chapter 28B.95 RCW by a Washington
2 college bound scholarship recipient.

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

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

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

12 The office of student financial assistance shall:

13 (1) With the assistance of the office of the superintendent of
14 public instruction, implement and administer the Washington college
15 bound scholarship program;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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