
SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5851

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Frockt, Kohl-Welles, Miloscia, Liias, Mullet, Pedersen, Nelson, and McAuliffe)

READ FIRST TIME 02/27/15.

1 AN ACT Relating to recommendations of the college bound
2 scholarship program work group; amending RCW 28B.77.100 and
3 28B.118.040; adding new sections to chapter 28B.118 RCW; creating a
4 new section; providing an expiration date; and declaring an
5 emergency.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the college
8 bound scholarship program has demonstrated that an early promise of
9 financial aid results in increased high school graduation rates for
10 low-income students. The promise of state financial aid to students
11 from low-income families who work to graduate with sufficient grades
12 and no felony convictions provides them with a path toward greater
13 educational attainment and upward mobility. The scholarship program
14 has the potential to move Washington toward its long-term goal of a
15 better trained and educated workforce. Among the first two cohorts,
16 college bound enrollees were fifteen percent and nineteen percent
17 more likely to graduate from high school in 2012 and 2013 compared to
18 low-income peers who were not part of the program.

19 The legislature also finds that a comprehensive review of the
20 college bound scholarship program in 2014 resulted in unanimous

1 recommendations to improve and enhance certain components of the
2 program, including data collection, outreach, and program outcomes.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.77.100 and 2012 c 229 s 302 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1)(a) In consultation with the education data center,
6 institutions of higher education, and state education agencies, the
7 council shall identify the data needed to carry out its
8 responsibilities for policy analysis and public information. The
9 primary goals of the council's data collection and research are to
10 describe how students and other beneficiaries of higher education are
11 being served; to compare and contrast the state of Washington's
12 higher education system with the rest of the nation; and to assist
13 state policymakers and institutions in making policy decisions.

14 (b) For the council, assistance to state policymakers and
15 institutions of higher education in making policy decisions includes
16 but is not limited to annual reporting of a national comparison of
17 tuition and fees.

18 (2) One of the goals of the education data center's data
19 collection and research for higher education is to support higher
20 education accountability. For the education data center, assistance
21 to state policymakers and institutions of higher education in making
22 policy decisions includes but is not limited to regular completion
23 of:

24 (a) Educational cost study reports as provided in RCW 43.41.415
25 and information on state support received by students as provided in
26 RCW 43.41.410; and

27 (b) Per-student funding at similar public institutions of higher
28 education in the global challenge states.

29 (3) The education data center shall be considered an authorized
30 representative of the council and the office under applicable federal
31 and state statutes for purposes of accessing and compiling student
32 record data for research purposes.

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

35 The office of student financial assistance shall:

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

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

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

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

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

16 ~~((+5))~~ (6) Within existing resources, collaborate with college
17 access providers and K-12, postsecondary, and youth-serving
18 organizations to map and coordinate mentoring and advising resources
19 across the state;

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

22 ~~((+6))~~ (8) Purchase tuition units under the advanced college
23 tuition payment program in chapter 28B.95 RCW to be owned and held in
24 trust by the board, for the purpose of scholarship awards as provided
25 for in this section; and

26 ~~((+7))~~ (9) Distribute scholarship funds, in the form of tuition
27 units purchased under the advanced college tuition payment program in
28 chapter 28B.95 RCW or through direct payments from the state
29 educational trust fund, to institutions of higher education on behalf
30 of scholarship recipients identified by the office, as long as
31 recipients maintain satisfactory academic progress.

32 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 28B.118
33 RCW to read as follows:

34 Each institution of higher education is encouraged to tailor
35 advising resources for any enrolled student who is the recipient of a
36 college bound scholarship. The institutions of higher education
37 should identify campus officials, resources, programs, and other
38 college bound scholarship students available to work with college
39 bound scholarship recipients.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.118
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) Beginning January 1, 2015, and at a minimum every year
4 thereafter, the student achievement council and all institutions of
5 higher education eligible to participate in the college bound
6 scholarship program shall ensure data needed to analyze and evaluate
7 the effectiveness of the college bound scholarship program is
8 promptly transmitted to the education data center created in RCW
9 43.41.400 so that it is available and easily accessible. The data to
10 be reported should include but not be limited to:

11 (a) The number of students who sign up for the college bound
12 scholarship program in seventh or eighth grade;

13 (b) The number of college bound scholarship students who graduate
14 from high school;

15 (c) The number of college bound scholarship students who enroll
16 in postsecondary education;

17 (d) Persistence and completion rates of college bound scholarship
18 recipients disaggregated by institutions of higher education;

19 (e) College bound scholarship recipient grade point averages;

20 (f) The number of college bound scholarship recipients who did
21 not remain eligible and reasons for ineligibility;

22 (g) College bound scholarship program costs; and

23 (h) Impacts to the state need grant program.

24 (2) Beginning the effective date of this section, and at a
25 minimum every December 1st thereafter, the student achievement
26 council shall submit student unit record data for the college bound
27 scholarship program applicants and recipients to the education data
28 center.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.118
30 RCW to read as follows:

31 (1) The Washington state institute for public policy shall
32 complete an evaluation of the college bound scholarship program and
33 submit a report to the appropriate committees of the legislature by
34 December 1, 2018. The report shall complement studies on the college
35 bound scholarship program conducted at the University of Washington
36 or elsewhere. To the extent it is not duplicative of other studies,
37 the report shall evaluate educational outcomes emphasizing degree
38 completion rates at both secondary and postsecondary levels. The

1 report shall study certain aspects of the college bound scholarship
2 program, including but not limited to:

3 (a) College bound scholarship recipient grade point average and
4 its relationship to positive outcomes;

5 (b) Variance in remediation needed between college bound
6 scholarship recipient and their peers;

7 (c) Differentials in persistence between college bound
8 scholarship recipients and their peers; and

9 (d) The impact of ineligibility for the college bound scholarship
10 program, for reasons such as moving into the state after middle
11 school or change in family income.

12 (2) This section expires August 1, 2019.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Section 5 of this act is necessary for the
14 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or
15 support of the state government and its existing public institutions,
16 and takes effect immediately.

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