

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT  
**SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5851**

64th Legislature  
2015 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate April 16, 2015  
Yeas 48 Nays 0

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**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 15, 2015  
Yeas 97 Nays 1

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5851** as passed by Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

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**Secretary**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5851

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AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2015 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2015 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Frockt, Kohl-Welles, Miloscia, Lias, 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; reenacting and amending RCW 28B.118.010; adding new  
4 sections to chapter 28B.118 RCW; creating a new section; providing an  
5 expiration date; and declaring an 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.118.010 and 2012 c 229 s 402 and 2012 c 163 s 8  
34 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

35 The office of student financial assistance shall design the  
36 Washington college bound scholarship program in accordance with this  
37 section and in alignment with the state need grant program in chapter  
38 28B.92 RCW unless otherwise provided in this section.

1 (1) "Eligible students" are those students who:  
2 (a) Qualify for free or reduced-price lunches. If a student  
3 qualifies in the seventh grade, the student remains eligible even if  
4 the student does not receive free or reduced-price lunches  
5 thereafter; or  
6 (b) Are dependent pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW and:  
7 (i) In grade seven through twelve; or  
8 (ii) Are between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one and have not  
9 graduated from high school.

10 (2) Eligible students shall be notified of their eligibility for  
11 the Washington college bound scholarship program beginning in their  
12 seventh grade year. Students shall also be notified of the  
13 requirements for award of the scholarship.

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

21 (b) A student eligible under subsection (1)(b) of this section  
22 shall be automatically enrolled, with no action necessary by the  
23 student or the student's family, and the enrollment form must be  
24 forwarded by the department of social and health services to the  
25 higher education coordinating board or its successor by mail or  
26 electronically, as indicated on the form.

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

31 (b)(i) To receive the Washington college bound scholarship, a  
32 student must graduate with at least a "C" average from a public high  
33 school or an approved private high school under chapter 28A.195 RCW  
34 in Washington or have received home-based instruction under chapter  
35 28A.200 RCW, must have no felony convictions, and must be a resident  
36 student as defined in RCW 28B.15.012(2) (a) through (d).

37 (ii) For a student who does not meet the "C" average requirement,  
38 and who completes fewer than two quarters in the running start  
39 program, under chapter 28A.600 RCW, the student's first quarter of  
40 running start course grades must be excluded from the student's

1 overall grade point average for purposes of determining their  
2 eligibility to receive the scholarship.

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. 4.** 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, which includes working with  
15 other state agencies, law enforcement, or the court system to verify  
16 that eligible students do not have felony convictions;

17 (4) Annually in March, with the assistance of the office of the  
18 superintendent of public instruction, distribute to tenth grade  
19 college bound scholarship students and their families: (a)  
20 Notification that, to qualify for the scholarship, a student's family  
21 income may not exceed sixty-five percent of the state median family  
22 income at graduation from high school; (b) the current year's value  
23 for sixty-five percent of the state median family income; and (c) a  
24 statement that a student should consult their school counselor if  
25 their family makes, or is projected to make, more than this value  
26 before the student graduates;

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

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

34 ~~((+5))~~ (7) Within existing resources, collaborate with college  
35 access providers and K-12, postsecondary, and youth-serving  
36 organizations to map and coordinate mentoring and advising resources  
37 across the state;

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

1        ~~((6))~~ (9) Purchase tuition units under the advanced college  
2 tuition payment program in chapter 28B.95 RCW to be owned and held in  
3 trust by the board, for the purpose of scholarship awards as provided  
4 for in this section; and

5        ~~((7))~~ (10) Distribute scholarship funds, in the form of tuition  
6 units purchased under the advanced college tuition payment program in  
7 chapter 28B.95 RCW or through direct payments from the state  
8 educational trust fund, to institutions of higher education on behalf  
9 of scholarship recipients identified by the office, as long as  
10 recipients maintain satisfactory academic progress.

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

13        Each institution of higher education is encouraged to tailor  
14 advising resources for any enrolled student who is the recipient of a  
15 college bound scholarship. The institutions of higher education  
16 should identify campus officials, resources, programs, and other  
17 college bound scholarship students available to work with college  
18 bound scholarship recipients.

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

21        (1) Beginning January 1, 2015, and at a minimum every year  
22 thereafter, the student achievement council and all institutions of  
23 higher education eligible to participate in the college bound  
24 scholarship program shall ensure data needed to analyze and evaluate  
25 the effectiveness of the college bound scholarship program is  
26 promptly transmitted to the education data center created in RCW  
27 43.41.400 so that it is available and easily accessible. The data to  
28 be reported should include but not be limited to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 (g) College bound scholarship program costs; and

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

5 (2) Beginning the effective date of this section, and at a  
6 minimum every December 1st thereafter, the student achievement  
7 council shall submit student unit record data for the college bound  
8 scholarship program applicants and recipients to the education data  
9 center.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.118  
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 (1) The Washington state institute for public policy shall  
13 complete an evaluation of the college bound scholarship program and  
14 submit a report to the appropriate committees of the legislature by  
15 December 1, 2018. The report shall complement studies on the college  
16 bound scholarship program conducted at the University of Washington  
17 or elsewhere. To the extent it is not duplicative of other studies,  
18 the report shall evaluate educational outcomes emphasizing degree  
19 completion rates at both secondary and postsecondary levels. The  
20 report shall study certain aspects of the college bound scholarship  
21 program, including but not limited to:

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

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

26 (c) Differentials in persistence between college bound  
27 scholarship recipients and their peers; and

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

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

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Section 6 of this act is necessary for the  
33 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or  
34 support of the state government and its existing public institutions,  
35 and takes effect immediately.

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