H-1951.1 _____

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1512
_____

State of Washington   **65th Legislature**   **2017 Regular Session**

By House Higher Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Bergquist, Stambaugh, McBride, Gregerson, Slatter, Frame, Macri, Peterson, Hudgins, Pollet, Orwall, Doglio, Appleton, Fitzgibbon, Goodman, Farrell, and Stanford)

READ FIRST TIME 02/17/17.

1   AN   ACT   Relating   to   expanding   college   bound   scholarship
2 eligibility;   and   amending   RCW   28B.118.010,   28B.118.040,   and
3 28B.118.090.

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.
13   (i) If a student qualifies in the seventh or eighth grade, the
14 student remains eligible even if the student does not receive free or
15 reduced-price lunches thereafter; or
16   (ii) If a student qualifies for free or reduced-price lunches in
17 the ninth or tenth grade and was previously ineligible during the
18 seventh or eighth grade while he or she was a student in Washington,
19 the student is eligible for the college bound scholarship program; or
20   (b) Are dependent pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW and:
21   (i) In grade seven through twelve; or

1   (ii) Are between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one and have not
2 graduated from high school.

3   (2) Eligible students shall be notified of their eligibility for
4 the Washington college bound scholarship program ((beginning)) in
5 their seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth grade years. Students shall
6 also be notified of the requirements for award of the scholarship.

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

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

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

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

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

1 (5) A student's family income will be assessed upon graduation
2 before awarding the scholarship.
3 (6) If at graduation from high school the student's family
4 income:
5 (a) Does not exceed sixty-five percent of the state median family
6 income, scholarship award amounts shall be as ((provided in this
7 section.)) follows:
8 (((a))) (i) For students attending two or four-year institutions
9 of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, the value of the
10 award shall be (((i))) (A) the difference between the student's
11 tuition and required fees, less the value of any state-funded grant,
12 scholarship, or waiver assistance the student receives; (((ii))) (B)
13 plus five hundred dollars for books and materials.
14 (((b))) (ii) For students attending private four-year
15 institutions of higher education in Washington, the award amount
16 shall be the representative average of awards granted to students in
17 public research universities in Washington or the representative
18 average of awards granted to students in public research universities
19 in Washington in the 2014-15 academic year, whichever is greater.
20 (((c))) (iii) For students attending private vocational schools
21 in Washington, the award amount shall be the representative average
22 of awards granted to students in public community and technical
23 colleges in Washington or the representative average of awards
24 granted to students in public community and technical colleges in
25 Washington in the 2014-15 academic year, whichever is greater;
26 (b) Does not exceed one hundred twenty-five percent and is
27 greater than sixty-five percent of the state median family income,
28 the value of the award shall be as follows:
29 (i) For students attending two or four-year institutions of
30 higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, or private four-year
31 institutions of higher education, the value of the award shall be
32 equal to tuition and fees for the public community and technical
33 colleges in Washington; or
34 (ii) For students attending private vocational schools in
35 Washington, the award amount shall be the representative average of
36 awards granted to students in public community and technical colleges
37 in Washington.
38 (7)(a) Recipients under subsection (6)(a) of this section may
39 receive no more than four full-time years' worth of scholarship
40 awards.

1 (b) Recipients under subsection (6)(b) of this section may
2 receive no more than two full-time years' worth of scholarship
3 awards.

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 The office of student financial assistance shall:

26 (1) With the assistance of the office of the superintendent of
27 public instruction, implement and administer the Washington college
28 bound scholarship program;

29 (2) Develop and distribute, to all schools with students enrolled
30 in grades seven ((or eight)) through ten, a pledge form that can be
31 completed and returned electronically or by mail by the student or
32 the school to the office of student financial assistance;

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

37 (4) Annually in March, with the assistance of the office of the
38 superintendent of public instruction, distribute to tenth grade
39 college bound scholarship students and their families: (a)

Notification that, to qualify for the scholarship, a student's family income may not exceed ((sixty-five)) one hundred twenty-five percent of the state median family income at graduation from high school; (b) the current year's value for ((sixty-five)) one hundred twenty-five percent of the state median family income; and (c) a statement that a student should consult their school counselor if their family makes, or is projected to make, more than this value before the student graduates;

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. 3. RCW 28B.118.090 and 2015 c 244 s 6 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Beginning January 1, 2015, and at a minimum every year thereafter, the student achievement council and all institutions of higher education eligible to participate in the college bound scholarship program shall ensure data needed to analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of the college bound scholarship program is promptly transmitted to the education data center created in RCW

1 43.41.400 so that it is available and easily accessible. The data to
2 be reported should include but not be limited to:
3   (a) The number of students who sign up for the college bound
4 scholarship program in seventh or eighth grade, or in ninth or tenth
5 grade;
6   (b) The number of college bound scholarship students who graduate
7 from high school;
8   (c) The number of college bound scholarship students who enroll
9 in postsecondary education;
10   (d) Persistence and completion rates of college bound scholarship
11 recipients disaggregated by institutions of higher education;
12   (e) College bound scholarship recipient grade point averages;
13   (f) The number of college bound scholarship recipients who did
14 not remain eligible and reasons for ineligibility;
15   (g) College bound scholarship program costs; and
16   (h) Impacts to the state need grant program.
17   (2) Beginning May 12, 2015, and at a minimum every December 1st
18 thereafter, the student achievement council shall submit student unit
19 record data for the college bound scholarship program applicants and
20 recipients to the education data center.

--- END ---