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HOUSE BILL 1512

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Bergquist, Stambaugh, McBride, Gregerson, Slatter, Frame, Macri, Peterson, Hudgins, Pollet, Orwall, Doglio, Appleton, Fitzgibbon, Goodman, Farrell, and Stanford

Read first time 01/23/17. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

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 grade, the student  
14 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 their  
5 seventh or ninth grade year. Students shall also be notified of the  
6 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)

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

9 (5) 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 (6) Track scholarship recipients to ensure continued eligibility  
15 and determine student compliance for awarding of scholarships;

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

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

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

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

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

33 (1) Beginning January 1, 2015, and at a minimum every year  
34 thereafter, the student achievement council and all institutions of  
35 higher education eligible to participate in the college bound  
36 scholarship program shall ensure data needed to analyze and evaluate  
37 the effectiveness of the college bound scholarship program is  
38 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.

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