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**SENATE BILL 5215**

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**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2021 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Conway, Holy, Das, Nguyen, Nobles, Randall, and Wilson, C.

Read first time 01/14/21. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing the maximum Washington college  
2 grant award at independent institutions of higher education; and  
3 amending RCW 28B.92.030.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.92.030 and 2019 c 406 s 21 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 As used in this chapter:

8 (1) "Council" means the student achievement council.

9 (2) "Financial aid" means either loans, grants, or both, to  
10 students who demonstrate financial need enrolled or accepted for  
11 enrollment as a student at institutions of higher education.

12 (3) "Financial need" means a demonstrated financial inability to  
13 bear the total cost of education as directed in rule by the office.

14 (4) "Institution" or "institutions of higher education" means:

15 (a) Any public university, college, community college, or  
16 technical college operated by the state of Washington or any  
17 political subdivision thereof; or

18 (b) Any other university, college, school, or institute in the  
19 state of Washington offering instruction beyond the high school level  
20 that is a member institution of an accrediting association recognized  
21 by rule of the council for the purposes of this section and that

1 agrees to and complies with program rules adopted pursuant to RCW  
2 28B.92.150. However, any institution, branch, extension or facility  
3 operating within the state of Washington that is affiliated with an  
4 institution operating in another state must be:

5 (i) A separately accredited member institution of any such  
6 accrediting association;

7 (ii) A branch of a member institution of an accrediting  
8 association recognized by rule of the council for purposes of this  
9 section, that is eligible for federal student financial aid  
10 assistance and has operated as a nonprofit college or university  
11 delivering on-site classroom instruction for a minimum of twenty  
12 consecutive years within the state of Washington, and has an annual  
13 enrollment of at least seven hundred full-time equivalent students;

14 (iii) A nonprofit institution recognized by the state of  
15 Washington as provided in RCW 28B.77.240; or

16 (iv) An approved apprenticeship program under chapter 49.04 RCW.

17 (5) "Maximum Washington college grant":

18 (a) For students attending two or four-year institutions of  
19 higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, is tuition and  
20 estimated fees for fifteen quarter credit hours or the equivalent, as  
21 determined by the office, including operating fees, building fees,  
22 and services and activities fees.

23 (b) For students attending private four-year not-for-profit  
24 institutions of higher education in Washington, (~~in the 2019-20~~  
25 ~~academic year, is nine thousand seven hundred thirty-nine dollars and~~  
26 ~~may increase each year afterwards by no more than the tuition growth~~  
27 ~~factor)) is the lesser of the maximum college grant under (a) of this  
28 subsection, or the individual institution's tuition for 15 quarter  
29 credit hours or the equivalent.~~

30 (c) For students attending two-year private not-for-profit  
31 institutions of higher education in Washington, in the 2019-20  
32 academic year, is three thousand six hundred ninety-four dollars and  
33 may increase each year afterwards by no more than the tuition growth  
34 factor.

35 (d) For students attending four-year private for-profit  
36 institutions of higher education in Washington, in the 2019-20  
37 academic year, is eight thousand five hundred seventeen dollars and  
38 may increase each year afterwards by no more than the tuition growth  
39 factor.

1 (e) For students attending two-year private for-profit  
2 institutions of higher education in Washington, in the 2019-20  
3 academic year, is two thousand eight hundred twenty-three dollars and  
4 may increase each year afterwards by no more than the tuition growth  
5 factor.

6 (f) For students attending Western Governors University-  
7 Washington, as established in RCW 28B.77.240, in the 2019-20 academic  
8 year, is five thousand six hundred nineteen dollars and may increase  
9 each year afterwards by no more than the tuition growth factor.

10 (g) For students attending approved apprenticeship programs, is  
11 tuition and fees, as determined by the office, in addition to  
12 required program supplies and equipment.

13 (6) "Office" means the office of student financial assistance.

14 (7) "Tuition growth factor" means an increase of no more than the  
15 average annual percentage growth rate of the median hourly wage for  
16 Washington for the previous fourteen years as the wage is determined  
17 by the federal bureau of labor statistics.

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