
HOUSE BILL 1812

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Hansen, Magendanz, Hargrove, Haler, Zeiger, Carlyle, Tharinger, and Pollet

Read first time 01/29/15. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to an informational program to increase
2 applications from high-achieving low-income high school students to
3 selective institutions of higher education; adding a new section to
4 chapter 28B.77 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that each year
7 a large number of high-achieving students from low-income families do
8 not apply to four-year colleges or universities, even though they
9 would have a good chance of acceptance and success. At the same time,
10 high-achieving students from high-income families are very likely to
11 apply to four-year colleges and universities.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.77
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 (1) The council shall design and implement a program that
15 provides customized information to high-achieving, low-income high
16 school students through the mail and, if the council determines
17 appropriate, electronically, with the purpose of increasing the
18 number of applications from this group of students to four-year
19 institutions of higher education and independent, nonprofit
20 baccalaureate degree-granting institutions in the state.

1 (2) For the purposes of designing, developing, and implementing
2 the program, the council shall:

3 (a) Partner with a national entity that offers aptitude tests;

4 (b) Consult with four-year institutions of higher education and
5 independent, nonprofit baccalaureate degree-granting institutions
6 with physical locations in the state; and

7 (c) Seek opportunities for shared costs and resources with the
8 entities in (a) and (b) of this subsection and develop agreements
9 with these entities.

10 (3) The council shall identify high-achieving students from low-
11 income families using methods the council determines to be
12 appropriate, including but not limited to national aptitude test
13 scores, scores on AP tests, and running start and other dual credit
14 programs.

15 (4) The council shall identify low-income students using methods
16 the council deems appropriate including eligibility for free or
17 reduced-price lunches or self-reported information or participation
18 in federal and state programs for low-income students.

19 (5) The main component of the program is to send a customized
20 information packet to high-achieving, low-income students. The packet
21 must include at a minimum:

22 (a) Materials that help students to choose colleges;

23 (b) An application guidance booklet;

24 (c) Application fee waivers, if available, for four-year
25 institutions of higher education and independent nonprofit
26 baccalaureate degree-granting institutions in the state that enable
27 students receiving a packet to apply without paying application fees;

28 (d) Information on college affordability and financial aid that
29 includes information on the net cost of attendance for each four-year
30 institution of higher education and each nonprofit baccalaureate
31 degree-granting institution, and information on merit and need-based
32 aid from federal, state, and institutional sources; and

33 (e) A personally addressed cover letter signed by the governor
34 and the president of each four-year institution of higher education
35 and nonprofit baccalaureate degree-granting institution in the state.

36 (6) The council shall implement the program no later than fall
37 2016, giving consideration to spring mailings in order to capture
38 early action decisions offered by institutions of higher education
39 and nonprofit baccalaureate degree-granting institutions.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If specific funding for the purposes of
2 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
3 provided by June 30, 2015, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
4 act is null and void.

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