

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT
SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5851

64th Legislature
2015 Regular Session

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

President of the Senate

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

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved

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.

Secretary

FILED

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5851

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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