
HOUSE BILL 1033

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Manweller, Hargrove, Haler, Buys, and Muri

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1 AN ACT Relating to expanding access to the state need grant by
2 modifying awards for students attending private four-year
3 institutions of higher education; amending RCW 28B.92.050 and
4 28B.92.065; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature found that for the 2015-16
7 academic year there were over twenty-four thousand students eligible
8 to receive a state need grant who went unserved, and the
9 legislature's intent is to provide as many eligible students as
10 possible with an award to pursue their dreams of a postsecondary
11 education. For the 2016-17 academic year, the maximum state need
12 grant award to students attending a private four-year institution in
13 the state was two thousand five hundred seventy dollars more than the
14 maximum state need grant award to students attending the least
15 expensive public four-year institution. The legislature recognizes
16 and supports the contribution that private four-year institutions
17 make to create an educated and informed citizenry and acknowledges
18 that these institutions are an integral part of the state's higher
19 education system. However, an original goal of the state need grant
20 program was to assist financially needy and disadvantaged students to
21 attend Washington public colleges and universities. Therefore, the

1 legislature believes that grant awards to students attending private
2 four-year institutions should be no greater than awards provided to
3 students attending any of the public four-year institutions. In
4 addition, restructuring the grants awarded to students attending
5 private four-year institutions will allow the state to serve more
6 students eligible for the state need grant who are currently
7 unserved.

8 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.92.050 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 161 are each
9 amended to read as follows:

10 The office shall have the following powers and duties:

11 (1) Conduct a full analysis of student financial aid as a means
12 of:

13 (a) Fulfilling educational aspirations of students of the state
14 of Washington, and

15 (b) Improving the general, social, cultural, and economic
16 character of the state.

17 Such an analysis will be a continuous one and will yield current
18 information relevant to needed improvements in the state program of
19 student financial aid. The office will disseminate the information
20 yielded by their analyses to all appropriate individuals and agents.

21 (2) Design a state program of student financial aid based on the
22 data of the study referred to in this section. The state programs
23 will supplement available federal and local aid programs. The state
24 programs of student financial aid will not exceed the difference
25 between the budgetary costs of attending an institution of higher
26 education and the student's total resources, including family
27 support, personal savings, employment, and federal, state, and local
28 aid programs.

29 (3) Determine and establish criteria for financial need of the
30 individual applicant based upon the consideration of that particular
31 applicant. In making this determination the office shall consider the
32 following:

33 (a) Assets and income of the student.

34 (b) Assets and income of the parents, or the individuals legally
35 responsible for the care and maintenance of the student.

36 (c) The cost of attending the institution the student is
37 attending or planning to attend.

38 (d) Any other criteria deemed relevant to the office.

1 (4) Set the amount of financial aid to be awarded to any
2 individual needy or disadvantaged student in any school year.
3 Students who enroll in a private four-year institution of higher
4 education in Washington for the 2018-19 academic year or later shall
5 receive a base grant award no greater than the base grant award for
6 students attending the least expensive public four-year institution
7 of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016.

8 (5) Award financial aid to needy or disadvantaged students for a
9 school year based upon only that amount necessary to fill the
10 financial gap between the budgetary cost of attending an institution
11 of higher education and the family and student contribution.

12 (6) Review the need and eligibility of all applications on an
13 annual basis and adjust financial aid to reflect changes in the
14 financial need of the recipients and the cost of attending the
15 institution of higher education.

16 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.92.065 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 36 s 4 are each
17 amended to read as follows:

18 Beginning with the 2015-2017 omnibus appropriations act and each
19 biennium thereafter, reductions in tuition levels resulting from
20 section 3, chapter 36, Laws of 2015 3rd sp. sess. will allow the
21 legislature to reduce state need grant appropriations by an equal
22 amount from the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium amounts. (~~The legislature~~
23 ~~does not intend to reduce award levels for private colleges and~~
24 ~~universities below the 2014-15 academic year levels.))~~

25 By reducing the overall cost of tuition, the legislature in
26 future biennia is better able and intends to serve those students
27 currently eligible but unserved in the state need grant.

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