
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2143

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By House Higher Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Haler, Hansen, Holy, Stanford, and Muri)

READ FIRST TIME 03/29/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding opportunities for higher education
2 students; amending RCW 28B.145.005, 28B.145.010, 28B.145.020,
3 28B.145.030, 28B.145.040, and 28B.145.090; and adding a new chapter
4 to Title 28B RCW.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The definitions in this section apply
7 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
8 otherwise.

9 (1) "Eligible student" means a resident student who is enrolled
10 in an accredited doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathic medicine
11 program in the state, is making satisfactory progress, and has
12 declared an intention to work as a physician in a rural and
13 underserved area in Washington following residency.

14 (2) "Medical student loan" means a loan that is approved by the
15 office and awarded to a participant under the program.

16 (3) "Office" means the office of student financial assistance.

17 (4) "Participant" means an eligible student who has received a
18 medical student loan under the program.

19 (5) "Program" means the medical student loan program.

20 (6) "Rural and underserved area" means an area where credentialed
21 health care professionals are in short supply as a result of

1 geographic maldistribution or as the result of a short supply of
2 credentialed health care professionals, and where vacancies exist in
3 serious numbers that jeopardize patient care and pose a threat to the
4 public health and safety, as determined by the office.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The medical student loan program is
6 established to increase the physician workforce in rural and
7 underserved areas in Washington state. The program must be funded
8 exclusively with private funding for the purpose of providing medical
9 student loans. State funding may be used for the administration of
10 the program. The office shall administer the program and has the
11 following powers and duties:

12 (1) To design and implement a low interest medical student loan
13 program with the following elements:

14 (a) A low interest rate, comparable to or more favorable than the
15 federal direct loan program, with interest charges that begin to
16 accrue once the participant finishes his or her medical residency
17 program;

18 (b) An annual loan limit not to exceed forty thousand dollars and
19 no more than the participant's estimated cost of attendance as
20 determined by his or her medical program;

21 (c) Loan repayments that do not commence until:

22 (i) Six months after the participant completes his or her medical
23 residency program; or

24 (ii) Six months after a participant leaves his or her doctor of
25 medicine program, doctor of osteopathic medicine program, or medical
26 residency program before completing; and

27 (d) An interest rate of at least twelve percent plus capitalized
28 interest that was deferred during the participant's doctor of
29 medicine or doctor of osteopathic medicine program, and residency
30 program, if the participant does not work as a physician in a rural
31 and underserved area in Washington for three years following
32 completion of his or her medical residency program;

33 (2) To establish an application, selection, and notification
34 process for awarding medical student loans to eligible students;

35 (3) To define the terms of repayment, including applicable
36 interest rates, fees, and deferments;

37 (4) To collect and manage repayments on the medical student
38 loans;

1 (5) To solicit and accept grants and donations from nonstate
2 public and private sources for the program;

3 (6) To exercise discretion to revise repayment obligations in
4 certain cases, such as economic hardship or disability;

5 (7) To publicize the program; and

6 (8) To adopt necessary rules.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The medical student loan account is
8 created in the custody of the state treasurer. Only the executive
9 director of the office or the executive director's designee may
10 authorize expenditures from the account. No appropriation is required
11 for expenditures from the account for medical student loans. An
12 appropriation is required for expenditures from the account for costs
13 associated with program administration by the office.

14 (2) The office shall deposit into the account all moneys received
15 for the program. Revenues to the account consist of moneys received
16 for the program by the office, including grants and donations, and
17 receipts from participant repayments, including principal and
18 interest.

19 (3) Expenditures from the account may be used solely for medical
20 student loans to participants in the program established by this
21 chapter and costs associated with program administration by the
22 office.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The office shall submit an annual
24 report regarding the program to the governor and the appropriate
25 committees of the legislature in accordance with the reporting
26 requirements in RCW 43.01.036.

27 (2) The annual report shall describe the design and
28 implementation of the program, and must include the following:

29 (a) The number of applicants for medical student loans;

30 (b) The number of participants in the program;

31 (c) The number of participants in the program who complete their
32 medical program;

33 (d) The number of participants in the program who are placed in
34 employment;

35 (e) The nature of that employment, including the type of job;
36 whether the job is full-time, part-time, or temporary; and the income
37 range;

1 (f) Whether the participant is working in a rural and underserved
2 area, and what percent of the participant's patients are served by
3 medicaid, the children's health insurance program, apple health, or
4 other programs with similar eligibility requirements;

5 (g) Demographic profiles of both applicants and participants;

6 (h) The amount of the private funding collected for the program;
7 and

8 (i) An estimate of when the program will be self-sustaining.

9 (3) The annual report must be submitted by December 1st of each
10 year after July 1, 2020.

11 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28B.145.005 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 13 s 1 are each
12 amended to read as follows:

13 The legislature finds that, despite increases in degree
14 production, there remain acute shortages in high employer demand
15 programs of study, particularly in the science, technology,
16 engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and health care fields of study.
17 According to the workforce training and education coordinating board,
18 seventeen percent of Washington businesses had difficulty finding job
19 applicants in 2010. Eleven thousand employers did not fill a vacancy
20 because they lacked qualified job applicants. Fifty-nine percent of
21 projected job openings in Washington state from now until 2017 will
22 require some form of postsecondary education and training.

23 It is the intent of the legislature to provide jobs and
24 opportunity by making Washington the place where the world's most
25 productive companies find the world's most talented people. The
26 legislature intends to accomplish this through the creation of the
27 opportunity scholarship and the opportunity expansion programs to
28 help mitigate the impact of tuition increases, increase the number of
29 baccalaureate degrees and advanced degrees in high employer demand
30 programs, in health professions needed in service obligation areas,
31 and other programs, and invest in programs and students to meet
32 market demands for a knowledge-based economy while filling middle-
33 income jobs with a sufficient supply of skilled workers.

34 **Sec. 6.** RCW 28B.145.010 and 2014 c 208 s 1 are each amended to
35 read as follows:

36 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
37 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

38 (1) "Board" means the opportunity scholarship board.

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

2 (3) "Eligible advanced degree program" means a health
3 professional degree program beyond the baccalaureate level and
4 includes graduate and professional degree programs.

5 (4) "Eligible education programs" means high employer demand and
6 other programs of study as determined by the board.

7 ((+4)) (5) "Eligible expenses" means reasonable expenses
8 associated with the costs of acquiring an education such as tuition,
9 books, equipment, fees, room and board, and other expenses as
10 determined by the program administrator in consultation with the
11 council and the state board for community and technical colleges.

12 ((+5)) (6) "Eligible student" means a resident student who
13 received his or her high school diploma or high school equivalency
14 certificate as provided in RCW 28B.50.536 in Washington and who:

15 (a)(i) Has been accepted at a four-year institution of higher
16 education into an eligible education program leading to a
17 baccalaureate degree; ((+))

18 (ii) Will attend a two-year institution of higher education and
19 intends to transfer to an eligible education program at a four-year
20 institution of higher education; or

21 (iii) Has been accepted at an institution of higher education
22 into an eligible advanced degree program and has agreed to the
23 service obligation established by the board;

24 (b) Declares an intention to obtain a baccalaureate degree or an
25 advanced degree; and

26 (c) Has a family income at or below one hundred twenty-five
27 percent of the state median family income at the time the student
28 applies for an opportunity scholarship.

29 ((+6)) (7) "High employer demand program of study" has the same
30 meaning as provided in RCW 28B.50.030.

31 ((+7)) (8) "Participant" means an eligible student who has
32 received a scholarship under the opportunity scholarship program.

33 ((+8)) (9) "Program administrator" means a college scholarship
34 organization that is a private nonprofit corporation registered under
35 Title 24 RCW and qualified as a tax-exempt entity under section
36 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code, with expertise in
37 managing scholarships and college advising.

38 ((+9)) (10) "Resident student" has the same meaning as provided
39 in RCW 28B.15.012.

1 (11) "Service obligation" means an obligation by the participant
2 to be employed in a service obligation area in the state for a
3 specific period to be established by the board.

4 (12) "Service obligation area" means a location that meets one of
5 the following conditions:

6 (a) Has been designated by the council as an eligible site under
7 the health professional conditional scholarship program established
8 under chapter 28B.115 RCW;

9 (b) Serves at least forty percent uninsured or medicaid enrolled
10 patients;

11 (c) Is located in a rural county as defined in RCW 82.14.370 and
12 serves a combination of uninsured, medicaid enrolled patients, and
13 medicare enrolled patients, equal to at least forty percent of the
14 practice location's total patients; or

15 (d) Serves a public agency, nonprofit organization, or local
16 health jurisdiction as defined in RCW 43.70.575 by providing public
17 health services necessary to preserve, protect, and promote the
18 health of the state's population, as determined by the board after
19 consultation with the department of health.

20 **Sec. 7.** RCW 28B.145.020 and 2014 c 208 s 2 are each amended to
21 read as follows:

22 (1) The opportunity scholarship board is created. The board
23 consists of eleven members:

24 (a) Six members appointed by the governor. For three of the six
25 appointments, the governor shall consider names from a list provided
26 by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of
27 representatives; and

28 (b) Five foundation or business and industry representatives
29 appointed by the governor from among the state's most productive
30 industries such as aerospace, manufacturing, health care, information
31 technology, engineering, agriculture, and others, as well as
32 philanthropy. The foundation or business and industry representatives
33 shall be selected from among nominations provided by the private
34 sector donors to the opportunity scholarship and opportunity
35 expansion programs. However, the governor may request, and the
36 private sector donors shall provide, an additional list or lists from
37 which the governor shall select these representatives.

38 (2) Board members shall hold their offices for a term of four
39 years from the first day of September and until their successors are

1 appointed. No more than the terms of two members may expire
2 simultaneously on the last day of August in any one year.

3 (3) The members of the board shall elect one of the business and
4 industry representatives to serve as chair.

5 (4) Seven members of the board constitute a quorum for the
6 transaction of business. In case of a vacancy, or when an appointment
7 is made after the date of expiration of the term, the governor or the
8 president of the senate or the speaker of the house of
9 representatives, depending upon which made the initial appointment to
10 that position, shall fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term
11 of the board member whose office has become vacant or expired.

12 (5) The board shall be staffed by the program administrator.

13 (6) The purpose of the board is to provide oversight and guidance
14 for the opportunity expansion and the opportunity scholarship
15 programs in light of established legislative priorities and to
16 fulfill the duties and responsibilities under this chapter, including
17 but not limited to determining eligible education programs and
18 eligible advanced degree programs for purposes of the opportunity
19 scholarship program. In determining eligible advanced degree
20 programs, the board shall consider advanced degree programs that lead
21 to credentials in health professions that include, but are not
22 limited to, primary care, dental care, behavioral health, and public
23 health. Duties, exercised jointly with the program administrator,
24 include soliciting funds and setting annual fund-raising goals.

25 (7) The board may report to the governor and the appropriate
26 committees of the legislature with recommendations as to:

27 (a) Whether some or all of the scholarships should be changed to
28 conditional scholarships that must be repaid in the event the
29 participant does not complete the eligible education program; (~~and~~)

30 (b) A source or sources of funds for the opportunity expansion
31 program in addition to the voluntary contributions of the high-
32 technology research and development tax credit under RCW 82.32.800;
33 and

34 (c) Whether the program should include a loan repayment or low-
35 interest or no-interest loan component for the advanced degree
36 portion of the program.

37 (8) The board shall report to the governor and the appropriate
38 committees of the legislature by December 1st of each biennium,
39 beginning December 1, 2019, on the following:

1 (a) A list of the eligible advanced degree programs and service
2 obligation areas;

3 (b) The number of participants in eligible advanced degree
4 programs, the number of participants completing their service
5 obligations in a service obligation area, and the number of
6 participants who have completed their service obligation; and

7 (c) The number of participants who did not complete their service
8 obligation who now owe a repayment obligation and the reasons why the
9 participants did not complete their service obligations.

10 **Sec. 8.** RCW 28B.145.030 and 2014 c 208 s 3 are each amended to
11 read as follows:

12 (1) The program administrator, under contract with the council,
13 shall staff the board and shall have the duties and responsibilities
14 provided in this chapter, including but not limited to publicizing
15 the program, selecting participants for the opportunity scholarship
16 award, distributing opportunity scholarship awards, and achieving the
17 maximum possible rate of return on investment of the accounts in
18 subsection (2) of this section, while ensuring transparency in the
19 investment decisions and processes. Duties, exercised jointly with
20 the board, include soliciting funds and setting annual fund-raising
21 goals. The program administrator shall be paid an administrative fee
22 as determined by the board.

23 (2) With respect to the opportunity scholarship program, the
24 program administrator shall:

25 (a) Establish and manage ~~((two))~~ three separate accounts into
26 which to receive grants and contributions from private sources as
27 well as state matching funds, and from which to disburse scholarship
28 funds to participants;

29 (b) Solicit and accept grants and contributions from private
30 sources, via direct payment, pledge agreement, or escrow account, of
31 private sources for deposit into ~~((one or both of the two))~~ any of
32 the three specified accounts created in this subsection (2)(b) upon
33 the direction of the donor and in accordance with this subsection
34 (2)(b):

35 (i) The "scholarship account," whose principal may be invaded,
36 and from which scholarships must be disbursed for baccalaureate
37 programs beginning no later than December 1, 2011, if, by that date,
38 state matching funds in the amount of five million dollars or more
39 have been received. Thereafter, scholarships shall be disbursed on an

1 annual basis beginning no later than May 1, 2012, and every October
2 1st thereafter;

3 (ii) The "student support pathways account," whose principal may
4 be invaded, and from which scholarships may be disbursed for eligible
5 advanced degree programs in the fiscal year following appropriations
6 of state matching funds. Thereafter, scholarships shall be disbursed
7 on an annual basis;

8 (iii) The "endowment account," from which scholarship moneys may
9 be disbursed for baccalaureate programs from earnings only in years
10 when:

11 (A) The state match has been made into both the scholarship and
12 the endowment account; and

13 (B) The state appropriations for the state need grant under RCW
14 28B.92.010 meet or exceed state appropriations for the state need
15 grant made in the 2011-2013 biennium, adjusted for inflation, and
16 eligibility for state need grant recipients is at least seventy
17 percent of state median family income; ((and

18 ~~(C) The state has demonstrated progress toward the goal of total~~
19 ~~per-student funding levels, from state appropriations plus tuition~~
20 ~~and fees, of at least the sixtieth percentile of total per-student~~
21 ~~funding at similar public institutions of higher education in the~~
22 ~~global challenge states, as defined, measured, and reported in RCW~~
23 ~~28B.15.068. In any year in which the office of financial management~~
24 ~~reports that the state has not made progress toward this goal, no new~~
25 ~~scholarships may be awarded. In any year in which the office of~~
26 ~~financial management reports that the percentile of total per-student~~
27 ~~funding is less than the sixtieth percentile and at least five~~
28 ~~percent less than the prior year, pledges of future grants and~~
29 ~~contributions may, at the request of the donor, be released and~~
30 ~~grants and contributions already received refunded to the extent that~~
31 ~~opportunity scholarship awards already made can be fulfilled from the~~
32 ~~funds remaining in the endowment account. In fulfilling the~~
33 ~~requirements of this subsection, the office of financial management~~
34 ~~shall use resources that facilitate measurement and comparisons of~~
35 ~~the most recently completed academic year. These resources may~~
36 ~~include, but are not limited to, the data provided in a uniform~~
37 ~~dashboard format under RCW 28B.77.090 as the statewide public four-~~
38 ~~year dashboard and academic year reports prepared by the state board~~
39 ~~for community and technical colleges;~~

1 ~~(iii))~~ (iv) An amount equal to at least fifty percent of all
2 grants and contributions must be deposited into the scholarship
3 account until such time as twenty million dollars have been deposited
4 into the account, after which time the private donors may designate
5 whether their contributions must be deposited to the scholarship, the
6 student support pathways, or the endowment accounts. The board and
7 the program administrator must work to maximize private sector
8 contributions to ~~((both))~~ the scholarship account, the student
9 support pathways account, and the endowment account, to maintain a
10 robust scholarship program while simultaneously building the
11 endowment, and to determine the division between the ~~((two))~~
12 scholarship, the student support pathways, and the endowment accounts
13 in the case of undesignated grants and contributions, taking into
14 account the need for a long-term funding mechanism and the short-term
15 needs of families and students in Washington. The first five million
16 dollars in state match, as provided in RCW 28B.145.040, shall be
17 deposited into the scholarship account and thereafter the state match
18 shall be deposited into the ~~((two))~~ three accounts in equal
19 proportion to the private funds deposited in each account; and

20 ~~((iv))~~ (v) Once moneys in the opportunity scholarship match
21 transfer account are subject to an agreement under RCW 28B.145.050(5)
22 and are deposited in the scholarship account, student support
23 pathways account, or endowment account under this section, the state
24 acts in a fiduciary rather than ownership capacity with regard to
25 those assets. Assets in the scholarship account, student support
26 pathways account, and endowment account are not considered state
27 money, common cash, or revenue to the state;

28 (c) Provide proof of receipt of grants and contributions from
29 private sources to the council, identifying the amounts received by
30 name of private source and date, and whether the amounts received
31 were deposited into the scholarship, the student support pathways, or
32 the endowment accounts;

33 (d) In consultation with the council and the state board for
34 community and technical colleges, make an assessment of the
35 reasonable annual eligible expenses associated with eligible
36 education programs and eligible advanced degree programs identified
37 by the board;

38 (e) Determine the dollar difference between tuition fees charged
39 by institutions of higher education in the 2008-09 academic year and

1 the academic year for which an opportunity scholarship is being
2 distributed;

3 (f) Develop and implement an application, selection, and
4 notification process for awarding opportunity scholarships;

5 (g) Determine the annual amount of the opportunity scholarship
6 for each selected participant. The annual amount shall be at least
7 one thousand dollars or the amount determined under (e) of this
8 subsection, but may be increased on an income-based, sliding scale
9 basis up to the amount necessary to cover all reasonable annual
10 eligible expenses as assessed pursuant to (d) of this subsection, or
11 to encourage participation in baccalaureate degree programs or
12 eligible advanced degree programs identified by the board;

13 (h) Distribute scholarship funds to selected participants. Once
14 awarded, and to the extent funds are available for distribution, an
15 opportunity scholarship shall be automatically renewed until the
16 participant withdraws from or is no longer attending the program,
17 completes the program, or has taken the credit or clock hour
18 equivalent of one hundred twenty-five percent of the published length
19 of time of the participant's program, whichever occurs first, and as
20 long as the participant annually submits documentation of filing both
21 a free application for federal student aid and for available federal
22 education tax credits, including but not limited to the American
23 opportunity tax credit; ~~((and))~~

24 (i) Notify institutions of scholarship recipients who will attend
25 their institutions and inform them of the terms of the students'
26 eligibility;

27 (j) Establish a required service obligation for participants
28 enrolled in an eligible advanced degree program, and establish a
29 process for verifying a participant's employment in a service
30 obligation area; and

31 (k) Establish a repayment obligation and appeals process for
32 participants who serve less than the required service obligation,
33 unless the program administrator determines the circumstances are
34 beyond the participant's control. If the participant is unable to pay
35 the repayment obligation in full, the participant may enter into
36 payment arrangements with the program administrator. The program
37 administrator is responsible for the collection of repayment
38 obligations on behalf of participants who fail to complete their
39 service obligation.

1 (3) With respect to the opportunity expansion program, the
2 program administrator shall:

3 (a) Assist the board in developing and implementing an
4 application, selection, and notification process for making
5 opportunity expansion awards; and

6 (b) Solicit and accept grants and contributions from private
7 sources for opportunity expansion awards.

8 **Sec. 9.** RCW 28B.145.040 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 13 s 5 are each
9 amended to read as follows:

10 (1) The opportunity scholarship program is established.

11 (2) The purpose of this scholarship program is to provide
12 scholarships that will help low and middle-income Washington
13 residents earn baccalaureate degrees or advanced degrees in high
14 employer demand programs, in health professions needed in service
15 obligation areas, and other programs of study and encourage them to
16 remain in the state to work. The program must be designed for
17 ~~((both))~~ students starting at two-year institutions of higher
18 education and intending to transfer to four-year institutions of
19 higher education ~~((and))~~, students starting at four-year institutions
20 of higher education, and students enrolled in an eligible advanced
21 degree program.

22 (3) The opportunity scholarship board shall determine which
23 programs of study, including but not limited to high employer demand
24 programs, are eligible for purposes of the opportunity scholarship.
25 For eligible advanced degree programs, the board shall limit
26 scholarships to eligible students enrolling in programs that lead to
27 credentials in health professions needed in service obligation areas.

28 (4) The source of funds for the program shall be a combination of
29 private grants and contributions and state matching funds. A state
30 match may be earned under this section for private contributions made
31 on or after June 6, 2011. A state match, up to a maximum of fifty
32 million dollars annually, shall be provided beginning the later of
33 January 1, 2014, or January 1st next following the end of the fiscal
34 year in which collections of state retail sales and use tax, state
35 business and occupation tax, and state public utility tax exceed, by
36 ten percent the amounts collected from these tax resources in the
37 fiscal year that ended June 30, 2008, as determined by the department
38 of revenue.

1 **Sec. 10.** RCW 28B.145.090 and 2014 c 208 s 4 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) The board may elect to have the state investment board invest
4 the funds in the scholarship account, the student support pathways
5 account, and the endowment account described under RCW
6 28B.145.030(2)(b). If the board so elects, the state investment board
7 has the full power to invest, reinvest, manage, contract, sell, or
8 exchange investment money in the (~~two~~) three accounts. All
9 investment and operating costs associated with the investment of
10 money shall be paid under RCW 43.33A.160 and 43.84.160. With the
11 exception of these expenses, the earnings from the investment of the
12 money shall be retained by the accounts.

13 (2) All investments made by the state investment board shall be
14 made with the exercise of that degree of judgment and care under RCW
15 43.33A.140 and the investment policy established by the state
16 investment board.

17 (3) As deemed appropriate by the state investment board, money in
18 the scholarship, student support pathways, and endowment accounts may
19 be commingled for investment with other funds subject to investment
20 by the state investment board.

21 (4) Members of the state investment board shall not be considered
22 an insurer of the funds or assets and are not liable for any action
23 or inaction.

24 (5) Members of the state investment board are not liable to the
25 state, to the fund, or to any other person as a result of their
26 activities as members, whether ministerial or discretionary, except
27 for willful dishonesty or intentional violations of law. The state
28 investment board in its discretion may purchase liability insurance
29 for members.

30 (6) The authority to establish all policies relating to the
31 scholarship account, the student support pathways account, and the
32 endowment account, other than the investment policies as provided in
33 subsections (1) through (3) of this section, resides with the board
34 and program administrator acting in accordance with the principles
35 set forth in this chapter. With the exception of expenses of the
36 state investment board in subsection (1) of this section,
37 disbursements from the scholarship account, the student support
38 pathways account, and the endowment account shall be made only on the
39 authorization of the opportunity scholarship board or its designee,

1 and moneys in the accounts may be spent only for the purposes
2 specified in this chapter.

3 (7) The state investment board shall routinely consult and
4 communicate with the board on the investment policy, earnings of the
5 accounts, and related needs of the program.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act
7 constitute a new chapter in Title 28B RCW.

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