
HOUSE BILL 2520

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Pike, Caldier, Shea, and Young

Read first time 01/10/18. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to modifying the requirements for renewing state
2 need grants; and amending RCW 28B.92.020 and 28B.92.060.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.92.020 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 158 are each
5 amended to read as follows:

6 (1) The legislature finds that the higher education
7 community((~~r~~)) has completed a review of the state need grant
8 program. It is the intent of the legislature to endorse the proposed
9 changes to the state need grant program, including:

10 (a) Reaffirmation that the primary purpose of the state need
11 grant program is to assist low-income, needy, and disadvantaged
12 Washington residents attending institutions of higher education;

13 (b) A goal that the base state need grant amount over time be
14 increased to be equivalent to the rate of tuition charged to resident
15 undergraduate students attending Washington state public colleges and
16 universities;

17 (c) State need grant recipients be required to contribute a
18 portion of the total cost of their education through self-help;

19 (d) State need grant recipients be required to document their
20 need for dependent care assistance after taking into account other
21 public funds provided for like purposes; and

1 (e) Institutional aid administrators be allowed to determine
2 whether a student eligible for a state need grant in a given academic
3 year may remain eligible for the ensuing year if the student's family
4 income increases by no more than a marginal amount except for funds
5 provided through the educational assistance grant program for
6 students with dependents.

7 (2) The legislature further finds that the changes in subsection
8 (1) of this section(~~(7)~~) should (~~(do so)~~) be done in a timely manner.

9 (3) The legislature also finds that:

10 (a) In most circumstances, need grant eligibility should not
11 extend beyond (~~(five)~~) four years or one hundred twenty-five percent
12 of the published length of the program in which the student is
13 enrolled or the credit or clock-hour equivalent; and

14 (b) State financial aid programs should continue to adhere to the
15 principle that funding follows resident students to their choice of
16 institution of higher education.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.92.060 and 2012 c 229 s 558 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

19 In awarding need grants, the office shall proceed substantially
20 as follows: PROVIDED, That nothing contained herein shall be
21 construed to prevent the office, in the exercise of its sound
22 discretion, from following another procedure when the best interest
23 of the program so dictates:

24 (1) The office shall annually select the financial aid award
25 recipients from among Washington residents applying for student
26 financial aid who have been ranked according to:

27 (a) Financial need as determined by the amount of the family
28 contribution; and

29 (b) Other considerations, such as whether the student is a former
30 foster youth, or is a placebound student who has completed an
31 associate of arts or associate of science degree or its equivalent.

32 (2) The financial need of the highest ranked students shall be
33 met by grants depending upon the evaluation of financial need until
34 the total allocation has been disbursed. Funds from grants which are
35 declined, forfeited or otherwise unused shall be reawarded until
36 disbursed, except that eligible former foster youth shall be assured
37 receipt of a grant. The office, in consultation with four-year
38 institutions of higher education, the council, and the state board
39 for community and technical colleges, shall develop award criteria

1 and methods of disbursement based on level of need, and not solely
2 rely on a first-come, first-served basis.

3 (3) A student shall be eligible to receive a state need grant for
4 up to (~~(five)~~) four years, or the credit or clock hour equivalent of
5 (~~(five)~~) four years, or up to one hundred twenty-five percent of the
6 published length of time of the student's program. A student may not
7 start a new associate degree program as a state need grant recipient
8 until at least five years have elapsed since earning an associate
9 degree as a need grant recipient, except that a student may earn two
10 associate degrees concurrently.

11 (a) Qualifications for renewal will include maintaining
12 satisfactory academic progress toward completion of an eligible
13 program as determined by the office and maintaining at least a 2.75
14 grade point average for all students except those attending The
15 Evergreen State College. Students enrolled at The Evergreen State
16 College must meet the requirements of the college's satisfactory
17 academic progress policy for state financial aid to remain qualified.

18 (b) Should the recipient terminate his or her enrollment for any
19 reason during the academic year, the unused portion of the grant
20 shall be returned to the state educational grant fund by the
21 institution according to the institution's own policy for issuing
22 refunds, except as provided in RCW 28B.92.070.

23 (4) In computing financial need, the office shall determine a
24 maximum student expense budget allowance, not to exceed an amount
25 equal to the total maximum student expense budget at the public
26 institutions plus the current average state appropriation per student
27 for operating expense in the public institutions. Any child support
28 payments received by students who are parents attending less than
29 half-time shall not be used in computing financial need.

30 (5)(a) A student who is enrolled in three to six credit-bearing
31 quarter credits, or the equivalent semester credits, may receive a
32 grant for up to one academic year before beginning a program that
33 leads to a degree or certificate.

34 (b) An eligible student enrolled on a less-than-full-time basis
35 shall receive a prorated portion of his or her state need grant for
36 any academic period in which he or she is enrolled on a less-than-
37 full-time basis, as long as funds are available.

38 (c) An institution of higher education may award a state need
39 grant to an eligible student enrolled in three to six credit-bearing

1 quarter credits, or the semester equivalent, on a provisional basis
2 if:

3 (i) The student has not previously received a state need grant
4 from that institution;

5 (ii) The student completes the required free application for
6 federal student aid;

7 (iii) The institution has reviewed the student's financial
8 condition, and the financial condition of the student's family if the
9 student is a dependent student, and has determined that the student
10 is likely eligible for a state need grant; and

11 (iv) The student has signed a document attesting to the fact that
12 the financial information provided on the free application for
13 federal student aid and any additional financial information provided
14 directly to the institution is accurate and complete, and that the
15 student agrees to repay the institution for the grant amount if the
16 student submitted false or incomplete information.

17 (6) As used in this section, "former foster youth" means a person
18 who is at least eighteen years of age, but not more than twenty-four
19 years of age, who was a dependent of the department of social and
20 health services at the time he or she attained the age of eighteen.

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