
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6593

State of Washington **65th Legislature** **2018 Regular Session**

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senator Ranker)

READ FIRST TIME 02/26/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the evergreen promise program and
2 expanding eligibility for the state need grant; amending RCW
3 28B.92.010, 28B.92.030, 28B.92.060, and 43.88C.010; adding a new
4 section to chapter 28B.92 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the state need
7 grant is essential to helping the state's lowest-income undergraduate
8 students pursue degrees or retrain for new careers. Yet, paying for
9 college remains difficult for middle and lower income families. It is
10 the intent of the legislature to ensure that the lowest income
11 families receive state need grant funds so that more students may
12 access and succeed in higher education in Washington state.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.92.010 and 2014 c 1 s 1 are each amended to read
14 as follows:

15 The purposes of this chapter are to establish the principles upon
16 which the state financial aid programs will be based and to establish
17 the state of Washington state need grant program, otherwise known as
18 the evergreen promise program, thus assisting financially needy or
19 disadvantaged students domiciled in Washington to obtain the
20 opportunity of attending an accredited institution of higher

1 education. State need grants under this chapter are available only to
2 students who are resident students as defined in RCW 28B.15.012(2)
3 (a) through (e) or any person who has completed the full senior year
4 of high school and obtained a high school diploma, either at a
5 Washington public high school or private high school approved under
6 chapter 28A.195 RCW, or a person who has received the equivalent of a
7 diploma; who has lived in Washington state for at least three years
8 immediately before receiving the diploma or its equivalent; who has
9 continuously lived in the state of Washington after receiving the
10 diploma or its equivalent and until such time as the individual is
11 admitted to an eligible institution of higher education and has been
12 granted deferred action for childhood arrival status pursuant to the
13 rules and regulations adopted by the United States citizenship and
14 immigration services. This chapter may be known and cited as the
15 evergreen promise program.

16 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.92.030 and 2013 c 248 s 2 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 As used in this chapter:

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

20 (2) "Disadvantaged student" means a posthigh school student who
21 by reason of adverse cultural, educational, environmental,
22 experiential, familial or other circumstances is unable to qualify
23 for enrollment as a full-time student in an institution of higher
24 education, who would otherwise qualify as a needy student, and who is
25 attending an institution of higher education under an established
26 program designed to qualify the student for enrollment as a full-time
27 student.

28 (3) "Financial aid" means loans and/or grants to needy students
29 enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a student at institutions of
30 higher education.

31 (4) "Institution" or "institutions of higher education" means:

32 (a) Any public university, college, community college, or
33 technical college operated by the state of Washington or any
34 political subdivision thereof; or

35 (b) Any other university, college, school, or institute in the
36 state of Washington offering instruction beyond the high school level
37 that is a member institution of an accrediting association recognized
38 by rule of the council for the purposes of this section and that
39 agrees to and complies with program rules adopted pursuant to RCW

1 28B.92.150. However, any institution, branch, extension or facility
2 operating within the state of Washington that is affiliated with an
3 institution operating in another state must be:

4 (i) A separately accredited member institution of any such
5 accrediting association;

6 (ii) A branch of a member institution of an accrediting
7 association recognized by rule of the council for purposes of this
8 section, that is eligible for federal student financial aid
9 assistance and has operated as a nonprofit college or university
10 delivering on-site classroom instruction for a minimum of twenty
11 consecutive years within the state of Washington, and has an annual
12 enrollment of at least seven hundred full-time equivalent students;
13 or

14 (iii) A nonprofit institution recognized by the state of
15 Washington as provided in RCW 28B.77.240.

16 (5) "Maximum state need grant award" means an award equal to the
17 same percentage of operating fees, building fees, and services and
18 activities fees as were covered in fiscal year 2018.

19 (6) "Needy student" means a posthigh school student of an
20 institution of higher education who demonstrates to the office the
21 financial inability, either through the student's parents, family
22 and/or personally, to meet the total cost of board, room, books, and
23 tuition and incidental fees for any semester or quarter. "Needy
24 student" also means an opportunity internship graduate as defined by
25 RCW 28C.18.162 who enrolls in a postsecondary program of study as
26 defined in RCW 28C.18.162 within one year of high school graduation.

27 ~~((+6))~~ (7) "Office" means the office of student financial
28 assistance.

29 ~~((+7))~~ (8) "Placebound student" means a student who (a) is
30 unable to complete a college program because of family or employment
31 commitments, health concerns, monetary inability, or other similar
32 factors; and (b) may be influenced by the receipt of an enhanced
33 student financial aid award to complete a baccalaureate degree at an
34 eligible institution.

35 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28B.92.060 and 2012 c 229 s 558 are each amended to
36 read as follows:

37 In awarding need grants under the evergreen promise program, the
38 office shall proceed substantially as follows: ~~((PROVIDED, That~~
39 ~~nothing contained herein shall be construed to prevent the office, in~~

1 ~~the exercise of its sound discretion, from following another~~
2 ~~procedure when the best interest of the program so dictates:))~~

3 (1) In the 2018-19 and 2019-20 academic years, the office shall
4 annually select the financial aid award recipients from among
5 Washington residents applying for student financial aid ((who have
6 been ranked according to)) as follows:

7 (a) For students whose median family income is at or below fifty
8 percent of the state median family income, the student shall receive
9 the maximum state need grant award; and

10 (b) For students whose median family income is above fifty
11 percent of the state median family income, the office shall
12 prioritize financial aid awards in the following way:

13 (i) Financial need as determined by the amount of the family
14 contribution; and

15 ~~((b))~~ (ii) Other considerations, such as whether the student is
16 a former foster or homeless youth, or is a placebound student who has
17 completed an associate of arts or associate of science degree or its
18 equivalent.

19 (2) In the 2020-21 and 2021-22 academic years, the office shall
20 annually select the financial aid award recipients from among
21 Washington residents applying for student financial aid as follows:

22 (a) For students whose median family income is at or below sixty
23 percent of the state median family income, the student shall receive
24 the maximum state need grant award; and

25 (b) For students whose median family income is above sixty
26 percent of the state median family income, the office shall
27 prioritize financial aid awards in the following way:

28 (i) Financial need as determined by the amount of the family
29 contribution; and

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

34 (3) In the 2022-23 academic year and all subsequent academic
35 years, the office shall annually select the financial aid award
36 recipients from among Washington residents applying for student
37 financial aid as follows:

38 (a) For students whose median family income is at or below
39 seventy percent of the state median family income, the student shall
40 receive the maximum state need grant award; and

1 (b) For students whose median family income is above seventy
2 percent of the state median family income, the office shall
3 prioritize financial aid awards in the following way:

4 (i) Financial need as determined by the amount of the family
5 contribution; and

6 (ii) Other considerations, such as whether the student is a
7 former foster or homeless youth, or is a placebound student who has
8 completed an associate of arts or associate of science degree or its
9 equivalent.

10 (4) Beginning in the 2018-19 academic year, the state need grant
11 shall be awarded first to students based on the criteria in
12 subsections (1) through (3) of this section. The financial need of
13 the next highest ranked students shall be met by grants depending
14 upon the evaluation of financial need until the total allocation has
15 been disbursed. Funds from grants which are declined, forfeited or
16 otherwise unused shall be reawarded until disbursed, except that
17 eligible former foster youth shall be assured receipt of a grant. The
18 office, in consultation with four-year institutions of higher
19 education, the council, and the state board for community and
20 technical colleges, shall develop award criteria and methods of
21 disbursement based on level of need, and not solely rely on a first-
22 come, first-served basis.

23 ~~((+3))~~ (5) A student shall be eligible to receive a state need
24 grant for up to five years, or the credit or clock hour equivalent of
25 five years, or up to one hundred twenty-five percent of the published
26 length of time of the student's program. A student may not start a
27 new associate degree program as a state need grant recipient until at
28 least five years have elapsed since earning an associate degree as a
29 need grant recipient, except that a student may earn two associate
30 degrees concurrently. Qualifications for renewal will include
31 maintaining satisfactory academic progress toward completion of an
32 eligible program as determined by the office. Should the recipient
33 terminate his or her enrollment for any reason during the academic
34 year, the unused portion of the grant shall be returned to the state
35 educational grant fund by the institution according to the
36 institution's own policy for issuing refunds, except as provided in
37 RCW 28B.92.070.

38 ~~((+4))~~ (6) In computing financial need, the office shall
39 determine a maximum student expense budget allowance, not to exceed
40 an amount equal to the total maximum student expense budget at the

1 public institutions plus the current average state appropriation per
2 student for operating expense in the public institutions. Any child
3 support payments received by students who are parents attending less
4 than half-time shall not be used in computing financial need.

5 ~~((+5))~~ (7)(a) A student who is enrolled in three to six credit-
6 bearing quarter credits, or the equivalent semester credits, may
7 receive a grant for up to one academic year before beginning a
8 program that leads to a degree or certificate.

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

13 (c) An institution of higher education may award a state need
14 grant to an eligible student enrolled in three to six credit-bearing
15 quarter credits, or the semester equivalent, on a provisional basis
16 if:

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

19 (ii) The student completes the required free application for
20 federal student aid;

21 (iii) The institution has reviewed the student's financial
22 condition, and the financial condition of the student's family if the
23 student is a dependent student, and has determined that the student
24 is likely eligible for a state need grant; and

25 (iv) The student has signed a document attesting to the fact that
26 the financial information provided on the free application for
27 federal student aid and any additional financial information provided
28 directly to the institution is accurate and complete, and that the
29 student agrees to repay the institution for the grant amount if the
30 student submitted false or incomplete information.

31 ~~((+6))~~ (8) As used in this section, "former foster youth" means
32 a person who is at least eighteen years of age, but not more than
33 twenty-four years of age, who was a dependent of the department of
34 social and health services at the time he or she attained the age of
35 eighteen.

36 (9) As used in this section, "homeless youth" means a person who
37 was verified on or after July 1st of the prior academic year as an
38 unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness, before age twenty-one.

1 **Sec. 5.** RCW 43.88C.010 and 2015 c 128 s 2 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) The caseload forecast council is hereby created. The council
4 shall consist of two individuals appointed by the governor and four
5 individuals, one of whom is appointed by the chairperson of each of
6 the two largest political caucuses in the senate and house of
7 representatives. The chair of the council shall be selected from
8 among the four caucus appointees. The council may select such other
9 officers as the members deem necessary.

10 (2) The council shall employ a caseload forecast supervisor to
11 supervise the preparation of all caseload forecasts. As used in this
12 chapter, "supervisor" means the caseload forecast supervisor.

13 (3) Approval by an affirmative vote of at least five members of
14 the council is required for any decisions regarding employment of the
15 supervisor. Employment of the supervisor shall terminate after each
16 term of three years. At the end of the first year of each three-year
17 term the council shall consider extension of the supervisor's term by
18 one year. The council may fix the compensation of the supervisor. The
19 supervisor shall employ staff sufficient to accomplish the purposes
20 of this section.

21 (4) The caseload forecast council shall oversee the preparation
22 of and approve, by an affirmative vote of at least four members, the
23 official state caseload forecasts prepared under RCW 43.88C.020. If
24 the council is unable to approve a forecast before a date required in
25 RCW 43.88C.020, the supervisor shall submit the forecast without
26 approval and the forecast shall have the same effect as if approved
27 by the council.

28 (5) A councilmember who does not cast an affirmative vote for
29 approval of the official caseload forecast may request, and the
30 supervisor shall provide, an alternative forecast based on
31 assumptions specified by the member.

32 (6) Members of the caseload forecast council shall serve without
33 additional compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses
34 in accordance with RCW 44.04.120 while attending sessions of the
35 council or on official business authorized by the council.
36 Nonlegislative members of the council shall be reimbursed for travel
37 expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

38 (7) "Caseload," as used in this chapter, means:

39 (a) The number of persons expected to meet entitlement
40 requirements and require the services of public assistance programs,

1 state correctional institutions, state correctional noninstitutional
2 supervision, state institutions for juvenile offenders, the common
3 school system, long-term care, medical assistance, foster care, and
4 adoption support;

5 (b) The number of students who are eligible for the Washington
6 college bound scholarship program and are expected to attend an
7 institution of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.92.030;

8 (c) The number of students who are eligible for the state need
9 grant under RCW 28B.92.060 and are expected to attend an institution
10 participating in the state need grant program; and

11 (d) The number of children who are eligible, as defined in RCW
12 ((43.215.405)) 43.216.505, to participate in, and the number of
13 children actually served by, the early childhood education and
14 assistance program.

15 (8) The caseload forecast council shall forecast the temporary
16 assistance for needy families and the working connections child care
17 programs as a courtesy.

18 (9) The caseload forecast council shall forecast youth
19 participating in the extended foster care program pursuant to RCW
20 74.13.031 separately from other children who are residing in foster
21 care and who are under eighteen years of age.

22 (10) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the
23 definitions provided in RCW 43.88.020 apply to this chapter.

24 NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. A new section is added to chapter 28B.92
25 RCW to read as follows:

26 A fee is assessed in the amount of one dollar and fifty cents to
27 students at institutions participating in the state need grant
28 program for each term in which they are enrolled for the purposes of
29 administering the state need grant program. The fee shall be
30 collected by the institutions participating in the state need grant
31 program and remitted to the state treasurer for deposit into the
32 general fund.

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