

**E2SHB 1659 - S AMD 1478**

By Senator Randall

**ADOPTED 03/04/2022**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that Washington is  
4 not on track to meet the state's educational attainment goal that at  
5 least 70 percent of adults, aged 25 to 44, have a postsecondary  
6 credential by the year 2023. Adults without a postsecondary  
7 credential are more at risk of unemployment, less likely to earn a  
8 living wage, and more vulnerable to economic downturns. The student  
9 achievement council has deemed that there are four areas essential to  
10 achieve the state's 70 percent attainment goal: Affordability,  
11 enrollment, completion, and student supports. In terms of  
12 affordability, the legislature recognizes that the Washington college  
13 grant is one of the country's largest and most generous financial aid  
14 programs. However, the legislature also recognizes that despite an  
15 increase in financial aid funding and eligibility, enrollments at  
16 institutions of higher education are down due to the COVID-19  
17 pandemic. Many prospective students have made the decision to delay  
18 pursuing higher education for a myriad of reasons. However, fewer  
19 enrollments mean fewer graduates going on to work in high paying  
20 jobs, which could have a significant impact on the state's workforce  
21 and economy in the future.

22 The legislature intends to continue to work towards making higher  
23 education more affordable and accessible for the state's population  
24 by expanding the Washington college grant program. In addition, the  
25 legislature intends to provide additional support beyond tuition and  
26 fees with the recognition that many students struggle to pay for  
27 books, supplies, room and board, transportation, child care, and more  
28 while pursuing their education. Grants beyond tuition and fees can  
29 help bridge the gap for students who are struggling to pay for the  
30 entire cost of attendance at an institution of higher education, and  
31 are often the difference between a student staying enrolled and  
32 completing his or her education and dropping out. Since the

1 legislature intends that the grant be provided to the student to  
2 assist with basic needs expenses, the legislature recognizes that the  
3 student should have a choice in whether the grant is received for  
4 those expenses or is applied to a student's account to cover  
5 additional institutional costs. Therefore, the legislature intends to  
6 bridge the gap and support students by making postsecondary education  
7 more affordable, encouraging more enrollments, and helping students  
8 complete their credentials so tomorrow's workforce and economy are  
9 stronger.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.92.030 and 2019 c 406 s 21 are each amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 As used in this chapter:

13 (1) "Bridge grant" means an annual stipend provided in addition  
14 to the Washington college grant to provide supplementary financial  
15 support to low-income students to cover higher education expenses  
16 beyond tuition and fees, such as books, lab fees, supplies,  
17 technology, transportation, housing, and child care.

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

19 ~~((2))~~ (3) "Financial aid" means either loans, grants, or both,  
20 to students who demonstrate financial need enrolled or accepted for  
21 enrollment as a student at institutions of higher education.

22 ~~((3))~~ (4) "Financial need" means a demonstrated financial  
23 inability to bear the total cost of education as directed in rule by  
24 the office.

25 ~~((4))~~ (5) "Gift aid" means financial aid received, such as  
26 grants, scholarships, or worker retraining assistance that provides  
27 funds for educational purposes with no obligation of repayment. "Gift  
28 aid" does not include student loans, work-study programs, the basic  
29 food employment and training program administered by the department  
30 of social and health services, or other employment assistance  
31 programs that provide job readiness opportunities and support beyond  
32 the costs of tuition, books, and fees.

33 (6) "Institution" or "institutions of higher education" means:

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

37 (b) Any other university, college, school, or institute in the  
38 state of Washington offering instruction beyond the high school level  
39 that is a member institution of an accrediting association recognized

1 by rule of the council for the purposes of this section and that  
2 agrees to and complies with program rules adopted pursuant to RCW  
3 28B.92.150. However, any institution, branch, extension or facility  
4 operating within the state of Washington that is affiliated with an  
5 institution operating in another state must be:

6 (i) A separately accredited member institution of any such  
7 accrediting association;

8 (ii) A branch of a member institution of an accrediting  
9 association recognized by rule of the council for purposes of this  
10 section, that is eligible for federal student financial aid  
11 assistance and has operated as a nonprofit college or university  
12 delivering on-site classroom instruction for a minimum of (~~twenty~~)  
13 20 consecutive years within the state of Washington, and has an  
14 annual enrollment of at least (~~seven hundred~~) 700 full-time  
15 equivalent students; or

16 (iii) A nonprofit institution recognized by the state of  
17 Washington as provided in RCW 28B.77.240; or

18 (~~(iv)~~) (c) An approved apprenticeship program under chapter  
19 49.04 RCW.

20 (~~(5)~~) (7) "Maximum Washington college grant":

21 (a) For students attending two or four-year institutions of  
22 higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, is tuition and  
23 estimated fees for (~~fifteen~~) 15 quarter credit hours or the  
24 equivalent, as determined by the office, including operating fees,  
25 building fees, and services and activities fees.

26 (b) For students attending private four-year not-for-profit  
27 institutions of higher education in Washington, in the 2019-20  
28 academic year, is (~~nine thousand seven hundred thirty-nine dollars~~)  
29 \$9,739 and may increase each year afterwards by no more than the  
30 tuition growth factor.

31 (c) For students attending two-year private not-for-profit  
32 institutions of higher education in Washington, in the 2019-20  
33 academic year, is (~~three thousand six hundred ninety-four dollars~~)  
34 \$3,694 and may increase each year afterwards by no more than the  
35 tuition growth factor.

36 (d) For students attending four-year private for-profit  
37 institutions of higher education in Washington, in the 2019-20  
38 academic year, is (~~eight thousand five hundred seventeen dollars~~)  
39 \$8,517 and may increase each year afterwards by no more than the  
40 tuition growth factor.

1 (e) For students attending two-year private for-profit  
2 institutions of higher education in Washington, in the 2019-20  
3 academic year, is (~~two thousand eight hundred twenty-three dollars~~)  
4 \$2,823 and may increase each year afterwards by no more than the  
5 tuition growth factor.

6 (f) For students attending Western Governors University-  
7 Washington, as established in RCW 28B.77.240, in the 2019-20 academic  
8 year, is (~~five thousand six hundred nineteen dollars~~) \$5,619 and  
9 may increase each year afterwards by no more than the tuition growth  
10 factor.

11 (g) For students attending approved apprenticeship programs, is  
12 tuition and fees, as determined by the office, in addition to  
13 required program supplies and equipment.

14 (~~(+6)~~) (8) "Office" means the office of student financial  
15 assistance.

16 (~~(+7)~~) (9) "Tuition growth factor" means an increase of no more  
17 than the average annual percentage growth rate of the median hourly  
18 wage for Washington for the previous (~~fourteen~~) 14 years as the  
19 wage is determined by the federal bureau of labor statistics.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.92  
21 RCW to read as follows:

22 (1) As part of the Washington college grant program, the bridge  
23 grant pilot program is created.

24 (2) The office shall award \$500 annual bridge grants to eligible  
25 students beginning with the 2022-23 academic year.

26 (a) Eligible students are Washington college grant recipients  
27 who:

28 (i) Are enrolled on at least a half-time basis at a pilot  
29 institution of higher education;

30 (ii) Receive a maximum award; and

31 (iii) Are not recipients of the college bound scholarship program  
32 under chapter 28B.118 RCW.

33 (b) The bridge grant shall be applied to a student's financial  
34 aid package after all other gift aid has been awarded to the student.

35 (c) The office shall ensure that each institution of higher  
36 education provides students with the option to either apply the  
37 bridge grant to the student's account or have the bridge grant  
38 disbursed to the student.

1 (3) The council shall study the implementation of the bridge  
2 grant pilot program on postsecondary student enrollment, persistence,  
3 and to the extent possible, completion. The council must use a  
4 rigorous research design which may include evaluating the effects of  
5 the bridge grant by comparing outcomes for students who received the  
6 bridge grant to outcomes for students with similar educational and  
7 demographic characteristics who did not receive the bridge grant. The  
8 educational research and data center shall submit to the council data  
9 that includes, but is not limited to, unit record demographics, high  
10 school academic history, any available academic outcomes, and other  
11 data deemed necessary by the council to conduct this study. A report  
12 is due to the appropriate committees of the legislature by June 1,  
13 2027.

14 (4) "Pilot institution of higher education" means Eastern  
15 Washington University, The Evergreen State College, Highline College,  
16 Yakima Valley College, Wenatchee Valley College, and Tacoma Community  
17 College.

18 (5) The bridge grant pilot program expires June 30, 2026.

19 (6) This section expires June 30, 2027.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The following acts or parts of acts are  
21 each repealed:

22 (1) RCW 28B.92.060 (State need grant awards) and 2019 c 298 s 4 &  
23 2012 c 229 s 558;

24 (2) RCW 28B.92.070 (Persian Gulf veterans—Limited application of  
25 RCW 28B.92.060) and 2012 c 229 s 559, 2004 c 275 s 38, & 1991 c 164 s  
26 3; and

27 (3) RCW 28B.92.110 (Application of award) and 2009 c 238 s 10,  
28 2004 c 275 s 40, & 1969 ex.s. c 222 s 16.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If specific funding for the purposes of  
30 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not  
31 provided by June 30, 2022, in the omnibus appropriations act, this  
32 act is null and void."

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**ADOPTED 03/04/2022**

1        On page 1, line 3 of the title, after "security;" strike the  
2 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 28B.92.030; adding a  
3 new section to chapter 28B.92 RCW; creating new sections; repealing  
4 RCW 28B.92.060, 28B.92.070, and 28B.92.110; and providing an  
5 expiration date."

EFFECT: (1) Eliminates the increases in Washington College Grants awards.

(2) Makes the bridge grant program a 4-year pilot program at the following institutions of higher education: Eastern Washington University, The Evergreen State College, Highline College, Yakima Valley College, Wenatchee Valley College, and Tacoma Community College.

(3) Bridge grant awards are \$500 annually.

(4) Requires a study by the student achievement council on the effectiveness of the bridge grant pilot program.

(5) The bridge grant pilot program expires June 30, 2026.

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