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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5655**

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**State of Washington**

**56th Legislature**

**1999 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Senators Kohl-Welles, Shin, Bauer, B. Sheldon, Fairley, Jacobsen and Rasmussen)

Read first time 03/02/1999.

1       AN ACT Relating to increasing access to education for recipients of  
2 temporary assistance for needy families; adding new sections to chapter  
3 74.08A RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The department shall establish the parents  
6 as scholars program. The goal of the program is to help parents, who  
7 are also students, and who have dependent children in need, receive up  
8 to two years of undergraduate education or training. Annually the  
9 department shall provide up to three thousand parents enrolled at an  
10 institution of higher education with a package of student aid that  
11 includes direct aid for living expenses equal to that provided under  
12 this chapter, as well as the other support services provided to  
13 recipients of temporary assistance for needy families, including but  
14 not limited to medical assistance, child care, food stamps, and other  
15 support services.

16       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** For purposes of sections 1 through 9 of this  
17 act, "institution of higher education" means the state universities,  
18 the regional universities, The Evergreen State College, the community

1 colleges, the technical colleges, and private career schools or  
2 colleges.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The parents as scholars program shall be  
4 supported with funds other than those granted to the state under Title  
5 IV-A of the federal social security act, provided that the state funds  
6 used for this program meet the definition of state maintenance of  
7 effort under Title IV-A of the federal social security act.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) Families that qualify for temporary  
9 assistance for needy families under this chapter may participate in the  
10 parents as scholars program in lieu of the temporary assistance for  
11 needy families. Eligibility for assistance, and the amount of  
12 assistance, shall be determined under criteria used in the temporary  
13 assistance for needy families program.

14 (2) The department shall assess the applicant to determine that the  
15 education and training sought by the applicant is likely to result in  
16 employment that provides the wages and benefits necessary for the  
17 applicant to support the applicant's family without public assistance.

18 (3) To be eligible for the parents as scholars program, an  
19 applicant is required to have worked in unsubsidized employment for  
20 twenty hours a week for at least twelve of the twenty-four weeks prior  
21 to applying for the parents as scholars program.

22 (4) To the extent that funds are available, enrollment in the  
23 program shall be granted if the department determines that:

24 (a) The applicant does not possess the necessary skills to obtain  
25 employment that will enable that individual to support a family at  
26 seventy-five percent of the median family income in the state for a  
27 family of the same size as the applicant's family;

28 (b) Considering potential employment opportunities and local labor  
29 market conditions, the undergraduate education sought by the individual  
30 is likely to improve the ability of the family to be self-supporting;  
31 and

32 (c) The applicant has the aptitude to successfully complete the  
33 proposed program at an institution of higher education.

34 The applicant shall meet the requirements for the state need grant  
35 under RCW 28B.10.800 through 28B.10.820 and qualify for acceptance at  
36 an institution of higher education in the state.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.** The department shall provide career planning  
2 and counseling services to applicants for, and recipients of,  
3 assistance under sections 1 through 9 of this act to assist them in  
4 choosing an educational plan that is likely to lead to self-  
5 sufficiency, and provide to students who have begun an educational  
6 program assistance to overcome barriers to completing the program and  
7 becoming employed. The department may work with other state and local  
8 entities to provide the planning and counseling services.

9        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.** Students receiving assistance under sections  
10 1 through 9 of this act shall meet the following requirements:

11        (1) They must participate in some combination of education,  
12 training, study, or work experience for at least twenty hours per week;  
13 and

14        (2) They must be enrolled full-time, with the expectation that they  
15 make satisfactory progress toward a degree, certificate, or license.

16        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 7.** The department shall inform all persons  
17 applying for or participating in the temporary assistance for needy  
18 families program of the option to apply for the parents as scholars  
19 program.

20        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 8.** To the extent permitted by federal law,  
21 assistance received under sections 1 through 9 of this act must be  
22 disregarded as income and excluded as a resource or asset to the same  
23 extent as assistance under the temporary assistance for needy families  
24 program, under this chapter, for the purposes of any state, federal,  
25 tribal, or municipal assistance program. Assistance received under  
26 sections 1 through 9 of this act must be treated in the same manner as  
27 assistance received under the temporary assistance for needy families  
28 program under this chapter for all tax purposes. Furthermore, the  
29 department shall implement the program so participants can qualify for  
30 food stamps.

31        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 9.** The department shall adopt rules to  
32 implement sections 1 through 8 of this act.

33        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 10.** Sections 1 through 9 of this act are each  
34 added to chapter 74.08A RCW.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 11.**    If any part of this act is found to be in  
2 conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to  
3 the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of  
4 this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with  
5 respect to the agencies directly affected, and this finding does not  
6 affect the operation of the remainder of this act in its application to  
7 the agencies concerned. Rules adopted under this act must meet federal  
8 requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal  
9 funds by the state.

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