
Higher Education Committee

SSB 5415

Brief Description: Changing exceptional faculty award grants.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Senators Carlson, Spanel, Kohl-Welles and Shin; by request of State Board for Community and Technical Colleges).

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Reduces the required college match for the community and technical college exceptional faculty awards program from \$25,000 to \$10,000.

Hearing Date: 3/25/03

Staff: Barbara McLain (786-7383).

Background:

Endowment Fund: In 1990 the Legislature established the exceptional faculty awards program for community and technical colleges. The program is administered by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC). When colleges and their foundations raise sufficient funds, they may apply to the state for matching funds. The combined funds form an exceptional faculty endowment that is managed by the college and its foundation. Only the interest earned on the endowment may be spent on awards. Awards can go to support faculty development and in-service training, special projects and research, or salary bonuses to recipients.

State Match History: The Legislature originally appropriated \$1.35 million for the program. By 1995 the state matching funds had been virtually exhausted. Since 1998, 3.3 percent of the Education Savings Account has been directed to the program. The Education Savings Account receives unspent state general fund appropriations from each fiscal year. An additional \$3 million has been awarded in state match since 1998.

Program Guidelines: To receive a state match, a college and its foundation must raise at least \$25,000. A college can receive no more than \$100,000 in a single biennium.

Summary of Bill:

The program guidelines for the community and technical college exceptional faculty awards program are changed. To receive a state match for its endowment, a college and its foundation must raise at least \$10,000 rather than \$25,000.

Note: In the House version of this bill (EHB 1403), the biennial limit of \$100,000 in matching funds for a single college is removed from statute. Instead the SBCTC will establish a limit. The Senate bill maintains the current biennial limit.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not Requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.