
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1706

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2003 Regular Session

By House Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Mastin and Grant)

READ FIRST TIME 03/05/03.

1 AN ACT Relating to changing the focus of the promise scholarship;
2 amending RCW 28B.119.010; adding a new section to chapter 28B.119 RCW;
3 creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that some students
6 have a potential for success in postsecondary education that is not
7 reflected in their grades or test scores from high school. The
8 legislature further finds that these students may be more likely to
9 consider pursuing postsecondary education if there were additional
10 financial assistance to encourage them. Therefore it is the
11 legislature's intent to include in the Washington promise scholarship
12 program, on a pilot basis, an opportunity for principals to nominate
13 high school graduates who would not otherwise be eligible for a promise
14 scholarship but who have overcome personal or financial barriers and
15 show promise to succeed if given the opportunity to pursue a
16 postsecondary education.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.119
18 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) Beginning with the graduating class of 2004 and ending with the
2 graduating class of 2006, each principal of a public or approved
3 private high school under chapter 28A.195 RCW may nominate a limited
4 number of students to receive a Washington promise scholarship under
5 this section. Nominations shall be for students who have demonstrated
6 strength of character in overcoming physical, personal, cultural, or
7 financial barriers to their educational success and give evidence of a
8 desire and commitment to complete a postsecondary educational program
9 or degree. The academic and financial eligibility criteria in RCW
10 28B.119.010 do not apply to students nominated under this section.

11 (2) The higher education coordinating board shall establish a
12 planning committee to develop criteria for and assist with the
13 selection of Washington promise scholars under this section. For ease
14 of administration, the board may use the planning committee established
15 in RCW 28A.600.130 and develop similar nomination and selection
16 processes as those used in administering the Washington scholars
17 program under RCW 28A.600.100 through 28A.600.150. The board shall
18 collaborate with the Washington association of secondary school
19 principals, other state education agencies, and private education
20 organizations in fulfilling its responsibilities under this section.

21 (3) The Washington association of secondary school principals shall
22 submit to the higher education coordinating board the names of
23 graduating senior high school students who have been nominated by their
24 principals under this section.

25 (4) Each year the higher education coordinating board, with the
26 assistance of the planning committee in subsection (2) of this section,
27 shall select five graduating students residing in each legislative
28 district in the state from the students nominated under this section.
29 Selected students are eligible to receive a Washington promise
30 scholarship.

31 (5) The higher education coordinating board shall conduct an
32 evaluation of the scholarships granted under this section and report to
33 the education and higher education committees of the legislature by
34 December 1, 2006, with recommendations on whether to continue or revise
35 the eligibility for promise scholarships created in this section.

36 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.119.010 and 2002 c 204 s 2 are each amended to
37 read as follows:

1 The higher education coordinating board shall design the Washington
2 promise scholarship program based on the following parameters:

3 (1) Scholarships shall be awarded to students graduating from
4 public and approved private high schools under chapter 28A.195 RCW and
5 students participating in home-based instruction as provided in chapter
6 28A.200 RCW who meet both an academic and a financial eligibility
7 criteria, or who are selected to receive a scholarship under the
8 process in section 2 of this act.

9 (a) Academic eligibility criteria shall be defined as follows:

10 (i) Beginning with the graduating class of 2002, students
11 graduating from public and approved private high schools under chapter
12 28A.195 RCW must be in the top fifteen percent of their graduating
13 class, as identified by each respective high school at the completion
14 of the first term of the student's senior year; or

15 (ii) Students graduating from public high schools, approved private
16 high schools under chapter 28A.195 RCW, and students participating in
17 home-based instruction as provided in chapter 28A.200 RCW must equal or
18 exceed a cumulative scholastic assessment test I score of twelve
19 hundred on their first attempt or must equal or exceed a composite
20 American college test score of twenty-seven on their first attempt.

21 (b) To meet the financial eligibility criteria, a student's family
22 income shall not exceed one hundred thirty-five percent of the state
23 median family income adjusted for family size, as determined by the
24 higher education coordinating board for each graduating class.
25 Students not meeting the eligibility requirements for the first year of
26 scholarship benefits may reapply for the second year of benefits, but
27 must still meet the income standard set by the board for the student's
28 graduating class.

29 (2) Promise scholarships are not intended to supplant any grant,
30 scholarship, or tax program related to postsecondary education. If the
31 board finds that promise scholarships supplant or reduce any grant,
32 scholarship, or tax program for categories of students, then the board
33 shall adjust the financial eligibility criteria or the amount of
34 scholarship to the level necessary to avoid supplanting.

35 (3) Within available funds, each qualifying student shall receive
36 two consecutive annual awards, the value of each not to exceed the
37 full-time annual resident tuition rates charged by Washington's

1 community colleges. The higher education coordinating board shall
2 award scholarships to as many students as possible from among those
3 qualifying under this section.

4 (4) By October 15th of each year, the board shall determine the
5 award amount of the scholarships, after taking into consideration the
6 availability of funds.

7 (5) The scholarships may only be used for undergraduate coursework
8 at accredited institutions of higher education in the state of
9 Washington.

10 (6) The scholarships may be used for undergraduate coursework at
11 Oregon institutions of higher education that are part of the border
12 county higher education opportunity project in RCW 28B.80.806 when
13 those institutions offer programs not available at accredited
14 institutions of higher education in Washington state.

15 (7) The scholarships may be used for college-related expenses,
16 including but not limited to, tuition, room and board, books, and
17 materials.

18 (8) The scholarships may not be awarded to any student who is
19 pursuing a degree in theology.

20 (9) The higher education coordinating board may establish
21 satisfactory progress standards for the continued receipt of the
22 promise scholarship.

23 (10) The higher education coordinating board shall establish the
24 time frame within which the student must use the scholarship.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act expires June 30, 2008.

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