
HOUSE BILL 1706

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Mastin and Grant

Read first time 02/05/2003. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to changing the focus of the promise scholarship;
2 amending RCW 28B.119.005, 28B.119.010, and 28B.119.020; creating a new
3 section; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.119.005 and 2002 c 204 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 The legislature intends to strengthen the link between
8 postsecondary education and K-12 education by creating the Washington
9 promise scholarship program for ~~((academically successful))~~ high school
10 graduates ~~((from low and middle income families))~~ who have overcome
11 personal or financial barriers and show promise to succeed if given the
12 opportunity to pursue a postsecondary education. The legislature finds
13 that, increasingly, an individual's economic viability is contingent on
14 postsecondary educational opportunities, yet ~~((the state's full~~
15 ~~financial obligation is eliminated after the twelfth grade. Students~~
16 ~~who work hard in kindergarten through twelfth grade and successfully~~
17 ~~complete high school with high academic marks may not have the~~
18 ~~financial ability to attend college because they cannot obtain~~
19 ~~financial aid or the financial aid is insufficient))~~ some students have

1 a potential for success in postsecondary education that is not
2 reflected in their grades or test scores from high school. The
3 legislature further finds that these students may be more likely to
4 consider pursuing postsecondary education if there were additional
5 financial assistance to encourage them.

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

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

10 (1) Beginning with the graduating class of 2003, scholarships shall
11 be awarded to students graduating from public and approved private high
12 schools under chapter 28A.195 RCW and students participating in home-
13 based instruction as provided in chapter 28A.200 RCW who meet ((both an
14 academic and a financial)) the eligibility criteria and have been
15 selected to receive a promise scholarship under the procedures
16 described in this section and RCW 28B.119.020.

17 (a) ((Academic)) To meet the eligibility criteria ((shall be
18 defined as follows:

19 (i) ~~Beginning with the graduating class of 2002, students~~
20 ~~graduating from public and approved private high schools under chapter~~
21 ~~28A.195 RCW must be in the top fifteen percent of their graduating~~
22 ~~class, as identified by each respective high school at the completion~~
23 ~~of the first term of the student's senior year; or~~

24 (ii) ~~Students graduating from public high schools, approved private~~
25 ~~high schools under chapter 28A.195 RCW, and students participating in~~
26 ~~home-based instruction as provided in chapter 28A.200 RCW must equal or~~
27 ~~exceed a cumulative scholastic assessment test I score of twelve~~
28 ~~hundred on their first attempt or must equal or exceed a composite~~
29 ~~American college test score of twenty seven on their first attempt)),~~
30 a student shall have demonstrated strength of character in overcoming
31 physical, personal, cultural, or financial barriers to his or her
32 educational success and give evidence of a desire and commitment to
33 complete a postsecondary educational program or degree.

34 (b) ((To meet the financial eligibility criteria, a student's

35 family income shall not exceed one hundred thirty five percent of the

36 state median family income adjusted for family size, as determined by

37 the higher education coordinating board for each graduating class.

1 ~~Students not meeting the eligibility requirements for the first year of~~
2 ~~scholarship benefits may reapply for the second year of benefits, but~~
3 ~~must still meet the income standard set by the board for the student's~~
4 ~~graduating class))~~ Based on the eligibility criteria, each school
5 district may nominate students graduating from public high schools in
6 the district to receive a promise scholarship. Students graduating
7 from approved private high schools under chapter 28A.195 RCW and
8 students participating in home-based instruction as provided in chapter
9 28A.200 RCW who meet the eligibility criteria may be nominated by their
10 high schools or may nominate themselves to receive a promise
11 scholarship.

12 (2) Promise scholarships are not intended to supplant any grant,
13 scholarship, or tax program related to postsecondary education. If the
14 board finds that promise scholarships supplant or reduce any grant,
15 scholarship, or tax program for categories of students, then the board
16 shall adjust the financial eligibility criteria or the amount of
17 scholarship to the level necessary to avoid supplanting.

18 (3) Within available funds, each qualifying student shall receive
19 ~~((two))~~ consecutive annual awards~~((7))~~ for the lesser of: (a) The
20 length of time it takes the student to complete a certificate or
21 associate degree; (b) the length of time it takes the student to reach
22 junior status at a four-year institution of higher education; or (c)
23 three years. The value of each ~~((not to exceed))~~ award shall equal the
24 full-time annual resident tuition rates charged by Washington's
25 community colleges plus the allowance for books and supplies as
26 calculated by the higher education coordinating board for purposes of
27 the state need grant. The higher education coordinating board shall
28 award scholarships to as many students as possible from among those
29 qualifying under this section without reducing the amount of the award.

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

33 (5) The scholarships may only be used for undergraduate coursework
34 at accredited institutions of higher education in the state of
35 Washington.

36 (6) The scholarships may be used for undergraduate coursework at
37 Oregon institutions of higher education that are part of the border

1 county higher education opportunity project in RCW 28B.80.806 when
2 those institutions offer programs not available at accredited
3 institutions of higher education in Washington state.

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

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

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

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

14 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.119.020 and 2002 c 204 s 3 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 The higher education coordinating board, with the assistance of the
17 office of the superintendent of public instruction, shall implement and
18 administer the Washington promise scholarship program described in RCW
19 28B.119.010 as follows:

20 (1) ~~((The first scholarships shall be awarded to eligible students
21 enrolling in postsecondary education in the 2002-03 academic year))~~ As
22 soon as practicable before the start of each academic year, the board
23 shall estimate the total number of promise scholarships available for
24 nomination, taking into account available funds and consecutive awards
25 to previous recipients.

26 (a) The board shall reserve for graduates of approved private high
27 schools and graduates of home-based instruction a number of scholarship
28 nominations that is proportional to the number of these graduates in
29 the state.

30 (b) The board shall apportion the remaining scholarship nominations
31 among the school districts proportionally based on the number of public
32 high school graduates in each district, except that each district shall
33 receive at least one scholarship nomination. In cooperation with the
34 office of the superintendent of public instruction, the board shall
35 notify each school district of its number of available scholarship
36 nominations.

1 (c) The board shall convene a screening committee to review
2 nominations from private high schools and graduates of home-based
3 instruction and award scholarships to graduates who meet the
4 eligibility criteria.

5 (d) If fewer graduates of private high schools or home-based
6 instruction are nominated or meet the eligibility criteria than the
7 number of nominations available for these graduates, the board shall
8 reapportion the remaining nominations among the school districts. If
9 fewer graduates within a school district meet the eligibility criteria
10 or elect to receive a promise scholarship than the number of the
11 district's available nominations, the board shall reapportion the
12 remaining nominations among other school districts.

13 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
14 provide information to the higher education coordinating board that is
15 necessary for implementation of the program. ~~((The higher education~~
16 ~~coordinating board and the office of the superintendent of public~~
17 ~~instruction shall jointly establish a timeline and procedures necessary~~
18 ~~for accurate and timely data reporting.~~

19 ~~(a) For students meeting the academic eligibility criteria as~~
20 ~~provided in RCW 28B.119.010(1)(a), the office of the superintendent of~~
21 ~~public instruction shall provide the higher education coordinating~~
22 ~~board with student names, addresses, birth dates, and unique numeric~~
23 ~~identifiers.~~

24 ~~(b) Public and approved private high schools under chapter 28A.195~~
25 ~~RCW shall provide requested information necessary for implementation of~~
26 ~~the program to the office of the superintendent of public instruction~~
27 ~~within the established timeline.~~

28 ~~(c) All student data is confidential and may be used solely for the~~
29 ~~purposes of providing scholarships to eligible students.))~~

30 (3) The higher education coordinating board may adopt rules to
31 implement this chapter.

32 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. Chapter . . . , Laws of 2003 (this act) does
33 not affect the awards to or eligibility of students receiving awards
34 under chapter 28B.119 RCW in the 2002-03 academic year. Awards for
35 students receiving their second-year consecutive award for the 2003-04
36 academic year shall be under the same terms, including the amount, as
37 were in existence in the 2002-03 academic year.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate
2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
3 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
4 immediately.

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