
SENATE BILL 5581

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl-Welles, McAuliffe, Shin, Tom, Berkey, Oemig,
Clements, Keiser, Holmquist and Roach

Read first time 01/24/2007. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to mathematics and science education; amending RCW
2 28A.230.090; reenacting and amending RCW 43.79A.040; adding a new
3 section to chapter 28A.655 RCW; adding a new chapter to Title 28B RCW;
4 and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the 2005
7 legislature created Washington learns to conduct a comprehensive review
8 of the state's entire education system and to issue recommendations.
9 The legislature further finds that Washington learns determined that
10 Washington students are falling behind international standards in
11 mathematics and science and that when high school students are not
12 well-prepared in mathematics and science, they are unlikely to pursue
13 the careers or college degrees that require those skills. The
14 legislature further finds that the Washington learns report includes a
15 strategy to increase the level of achievement of the state's students
16 by increasing high school graduation requirements; and a strategy to
17 expand incentives and opportunities for students seeking high-demand
18 mathematics- and science-related certificates and degrees. The

1 legislature further finds that the intent of this act is to implement
2 both of these strategies.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.090 and 2006 c 114 s 3 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) The state board of education shall establish high school
6 graduation requirements or equivalencies for students, except those
7 equivalencies established by local high schools or school districts
8 under RCW 28A.230.097 or as provided in section 3 of this act.

9 (a) Any course in Washington state history and government used to
10 fulfill high school graduation requirements shall consider including
11 information on the culture, history, and government of the American
12 Indian peoples who were the first inhabitants of the state.

13 (b) The certificate of academic achievement requirements under RCW
14 28A.655.061 or the certificate of individual achievement requirements
15 under RCW 28A.155.045 are required for graduation from a public high
16 school but are not the only requirements for graduation.

17 (c) Any decision on whether a student has met the state board's
18 high school graduation requirements for a high school and beyond plan
19 shall remain at the local level.

20 (2) In recognition of the statutory authority of the state board of
21 education to establish and enforce minimum high school graduation
22 requirements, the state board shall periodically reevaluate the
23 graduation requirements and shall report such findings to the
24 legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state board. The
25 state board shall reevaluate the graduation requirements for students
26 enrolled in vocationally intensive and rigorous career and technical
27 education programs, particularly those programs that lead to a
28 certificate or credential that is state or nationally recognized. The
29 purpose of the evaluation is to ensure that students enrolled in these
30 programs have sufficient opportunity to earn a certificate of academic
31 achievement, complete the program and earn the program's certificate or
32 credential, and complete other state and local graduation requirements.
33 The board shall (~~reports—[report]~~) report its findings and
34 recommendations for additional flexibility in graduation requirements,
35 if necessary, to the legislature by December 1, 2007.

36 (3) Pursuant to any requirement for instruction in languages other
37 than English established by the state board of education or a local

1 school district, or both, for purposes of high school graduation,
2 students who receive instruction in American sign language or one or
3 more American Indian languages shall be considered to have satisfied
4 the state or local school district graduation requirement for
5 instruction in one or more languages other than English.

6 (4) If requested by the student and his or her family, a student
7 who has completed high school courses before attending high school
8 shall be given high school credit which shall be applied to fulfilling
9 high school graduation requirements if:

10 (a) The course was taken with high school students, if the academic
11 level of the course exceeds the requirements for seventh and eighth
12 grade classes, and the student has successfully passed by completing
13 the same course requirements and examinations as the high school
14 students enrolled in the class; or

15 (b) The academic level of the course exceeds the requirements for
16 seventh and eighth grade classes and the course would qualify for high
17 school credit, because the course is similar or equivalent to a course
18 offered at a high school in the district as determined by the school
19 district board of directors.

20 (5) Students who have taken and successfully completed high school
21 courses under the circumstances in subsection (4) of this section shall
22 not be required to take an additional competency examination or perform
23 any other additional assignment to receive credit.

24 (6) At the college or university level, five quarter or three
25 semester hours equals one high school credit.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.655
27 RCW to read as follows:

28 (1) A mathematics/science scholar designation on the high school
29 diploma is created. This designation shall be awarded to public school
30 students, and approved private school students at the discretion of the
31 approved private school, who complete the following requirements:

- 32 (a) Successfully earn the following high school credits:
 - 33 (i) Four mathematics credits, including calculus;
 - 34 (ii) At least three science credits, including chemistry and
35 physics; and
 - 36 (iii) At least three credits of world language other than English;

1 (b) Receive advanced placement scores of three or higher on at
2 least two advance placement tests;

3 (c) Earn a high school grade point average of 3.5 or above; and

4 (d) Meet the state standards in all content areas of the high
5 school level Washington assessment of student achievement.

6 (2) As used in this section, "high school credits" means a full
7 school year of study or one hundred fifty hours of planned
8 instructional activities, whichever is greater, or an equivalent as
9 defined by the state board of education.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The higher education coordinating board
11 shall award full tuition scholarships to students graduating from
12 public and approved private high schools under chapter 28A.195 RCW who
13 obtain a mathematics/science scholar designation on their high school
14 diplomas, if the student pursues an undergraduate degree in a
15 mathematics or science-related field and who qualify for a scholarship
16 under the ranking system developed by the board.

17 (2) The scholarships may only be used for undergraduate coursework
18 beginning in the student's second year at accredited institutions of
19 higher education in the state of Washington, except that the
20 scholarships may be used for undergraduate coursework at Oregon
21 institutions of higher education that are located in counties bordering
22 Washington state.

23 (3) The higher education coordinating board shall develop a ranking
24 system to determine priority of the award of the mathematics/science
25 scholarship. The ranking system shall consider the following factors:

26 (a) The first year of course selection at institutions of higher
27 education by the applicant. Applications shall be ranked higher based
28 on the number of mathematics and science classes that the applicant
29 enrolled and completed;

30 (b) The grade point average of the applicant in the first year at
31 an institution of higher education; and

32 (c) Other criteria that the higher education coordinating board
33 deems appropriate.

34 (4) The higher education coordinating board shall award
35 scholarships to as many eligible students as possible using the ranking
36 system.

1 (5) The scholarships may not be awarded to any student who is
2 pursuing a degree in theology.

3 (6) The higher education coordinating board may establish
4 satisfactory progress standards for the continued receipt of the
5 scholarship.

6 (7) The higher education coordinating board shall establish the
7 time frame within which the student must use the scholarship.

8 (8) The higher education coordinating board may adopt rules to
9 implement this section.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The mathematics/science high school
11 scholar scholarship account is created in the custody of the state
12 treasurer. The account shall be a nontreasury account retaining its
13 interest earnings in accordance with RCW 43.79A.040.

14 (2) The higher education coordinating board shall deposit in the
15 account all money received for the program. The account shall be self-
16 sustaining and consist of funds appropriated by the legislature for the
17 mathematics/science high school scholar scholarship program, private
18 contributions to the program, and refunds of scholarships under this
19 chapter.

20 (3) Expenditures from the account shall be used for scholarships to
21 eligible students.

22 (4) With the exception of the operating costs associated with the
23 management of the account by the treasurer's office as authorized in
24 chapter 43.79A RCW, the account shall be credited with all investment
25 income earned by the account.

26 (5) Disbursements from the account are exempt from appropriations
27 and the allotment provisions of chapter 43.88 RCW.

28 (6) Disbursements from the account shall be made only on the
29 authorization of the higher education coordinating board.

30 **Sec. 6.** RCW 43.79A.040 and 2006 c 311 s 21 and 2006 c 120 s 2 are
31 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

32 (1) Money in the treasurer's trust fund may be deposited, invested,
33 and reinvested by the state treasurer in accordance with RCW 43.84.080
34 in the same manner and to the same extent as if the money were in the
35 state treasury.

1 (2) All income received from investment of the treasurer's trust
2 fund shall be set aside in an account in the treasury trust fund to be
3 known as the investment income account.

4 (3) The investment income account may be utilized for the payment
5 of purchased banking services on behalf of treasurer's trust funds
6 including, but not limited to, depository, safekeeping, and
7 disbursement functions for the state treasurer or affected state
8 agencies. The investment income account is subject in all respects to
9 chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for payments to
10 financial institutions. Payments shall occur prior to distribution of
11 earnings set forth in subsection (4) of this section.

12 (4)(a) Monthly, the state treasurer shall distribute the earnings
13 credited to the investment income account to the state general fund
14 except under (b) and (c) of this subsection.

15 (b) The following accounts and funds shall receive their
16 proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or fund's
17 average daily balance for the period: The Washington promise
18 scholarship account, the college savings program account, the
19 Washington advanced college tuition payment program account, the
20 agricultural local fund, the American Indian scholarship endowment
21 fund, the foster care scholarship endowment fund, the foster care
22 endowed scholarship trust fund, the students with dependents grant
23 account, the basic health plan self-insurance reserve account, the
24 contract harvesting revolving account, the Washington state combined
25 fund drive account, the commemorative works account, the Washington
26 international exchange scholarship endowment fund, the developmental
27 disabilities endowment trust fund, the energy account, the fair fund,
28 the fruit and vegetable inspection account, the future teachers
29 conditional scholarship account, the game farm alternative account, the
30 grain inspection revolving fund, the juvenile accountability incentive
31 account, the law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' plan 2
32 expense fund, the local tourism promotion account, the
33 mathematics/science high school scholar scholarship account, the
34 produce railcar pool account, the regional transportation investment
35 district account, the rural rehabilitation account, the stadium and
36 exhibition center account, the youth athletic facility account, the
37 self-insurance revolving fund, the sulfur dioxide abatement account,
38 the children's trust fund, the Washington horse racing commission

1 Washington bred owners' bonus fund account, the Washington horse racing
2 commission class C purse fund account, the individual development
3 account program account, the Washington horse racing commission
4 operating account (earnings from the Washington horse racing commission
5 operating account must be credited to the Washington horse racing
6 commission class C purse fund account), the life sciences discovery
7 fund, and the reading achievement account. However, the earnings to be
8 distributed shall first be reduced by the allocation to the state
9 treasurer's service fund pursuant to RCW 43.08.190.

10 (c) The following accounts and funds shall receive eighty percent
11 of their proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or
12 fund's average daily balance for the period: The advanced right of way
13 revolving fund, the advanced environmental mitigation revolving
14 account, the city and county advance right-of-way revolving fund, the
15 federal narcotics asset forfeitures account, the high occupancy vehicle
16 account, the local rail service assistance account, and the
17 miscellaneous transportation programs account.

18 (5) In conformance with Article II, section 37 of the state
19 Constitution, no trust accounts or funds shall be allocated earnings
20 without the specific affirmative directive of this section.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 4 and 5 of this act constitute a
22 new chapter in Title 28B RCW.

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