
HOUSE BILL 2720

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Representatives Seaquist, Haler, Walkinshaw, Wylie, Sawyer, Morrell, Tarleton, Ormsby, Bergquist, Pollet, Gregerson, Freeman, and Goodman

Read first time 01/28/14. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to the pay it forward program; and adding a new
2 chapter to Title 28B RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The definitions in this section apply
5 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

6 (1) "Council" means the student achievement council.

7 (2) "Office" means the office of student financial assistance.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The pay it forward program is created
9 for the purpose of providing greater access to higher education. The
10 program shall be developed and implemented by the council.

11 (2) Eligible students who choose to participate in the pay it
12 forward program and who are enrolled in an undergraduate postsecondary
13 degree or certificate program at an institution of higher education
14 shall receive funds for their higher education program's tuition and
15 fees, less any awards the student may receive through federal and state
16 financial aid, and private aid.

17 (3) Students choosing to participate in the pay it forward program
18 shall sign a binding contract obligating them to make contributions to

1 the pay it forward program to be deposited by the office in the pay it
2 forward trust fund account created in section 4 of this act. Program
3 participants shall start making contributions in the third January
4 following graduation or discontinuation of their postsecondary program.
5 The amount students are required to contribute and the length of time
6 students are required to contribute shall be determined by the council
7 within the parameters in this subsection.

8 (a) Participants who attended a state university shall not be
9 required to contribute more than five percent of their income.

10 (b) Participants who attended a regional university or state
11 college or who enrolled in an applied baccalaureate program at a
12 community or technical college shall not be required to contribute more
13 than three and one-half percent of their income.

14 (c) Participants who attended a community or technical college and
15 enrolled in an associate degree, workforce degree, or certificate
16 program shall not be required to contribute more than two percent of
17 their income.

18 (d) Participants who transfer from a community or technical college
19 to a baccalaureate program shall contribute based on the proportion of
20 credit hours earned in the respective sectors.

21 (e) Participants who receive other state financial aid shall have
22 their contribution obligations calculated according to the proportion
23 of their tuition and required fees that are financed through the pay it
24 forward program.

25 (f) Participants shall be required to make contributions in
26 proportion to the number of credits for which the participant was
27 registered while participating in the pay it forward program.

28 (g) A student is eligible to receive pay it forward tuition
29 assistance for up to five years, or the credit or clock hour equivalent
30 of five years, or up to one hundred twenty-five percent of the
31 published length of time of the student's program.

32 (h) Participants shall not be required to make contributions to the
33 pay it forward program for a period longer than twenty-five years.

34 (4) Students eligible to participate on a voluntary basis are:

35 (a) All students graduating after January 1, 2015, from up to five
36 high schools selected by the council in subsection (5) of this section;
37 and

1 (b) Students who have graduated from a high school selected in
2 subsection (5) of this section within eight years including students
3 who have previously enrolled in a postsecondary program at an
4 institution of higher education who did not participate in the pay it
5 forward program.

6 (5) The council shall select up to five high schools for
7 participation in the program giving consideration to the following:

8 (a) At least two high schools must be located east of the crest of
9 the Cascade mountains, one of which shall be located in central
10 Washington;

11 (b) Participating schools must vary in size and geographic
12 location;

13 (c) Participating schools must serve high proportions of low-income
14 students and students who are traditionally underrepresented in
15 postsecondary education, including students whose parents have never
16 attended college; and

17 (d) Participating schools must have communities and leaders that
18 demonstrate support for their students to pursue postsecondary
19 education.

20 (6) The rate at which the pay it forward program shall be expanded
21 from the initial five high schools to eventually incorporate all public
22 high schools in the state must be determined by the legislature in the
23 omnibus appropriations act.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Each high school selected to participate in
25 the pay it forward program in section 2 of this act shall be allocated
26 one additional full-time equivalent counselor in order to increase
27 participation in postsecondary education access programs such as the
28 pay it forward program and the college bound scholarship.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The pay it forward trust fund account is
30 created in the custody of the state treasurer. The primary purpose of
31 the account is to ensure that all disbursements from the account are
32 made available to students eligible for the pay it forward program
33 created in section 2 of this act.

34 (2) The office shall deposit in the account all money received for
35 the program established under section 2 of this act. The account shall
36 consist of funds appropriated by the legislature for the program,

1 contributions to the pay it forward program by pay it forward program
2 participants, and private contributions. Moneys deposited in the
3 account do not lapse at the close of the fiscal period for which they
4 were appropriated. Both during and after the fiscal period in which
5 moneys were deposited in the account, the office may expend moneys in
6 the account only for the purposes of the pay it forward program.

7 (3) Expenditures from the account shall be used for the pay it
8 forward program according to program rules and policies.

9 (4) Only the executive director of the office or the executive
10 director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account.

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

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act constitute
14 a new chapter in Title 28B RCW.

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