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SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1293

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

**By** House Higher Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Ortiz-Self, Caldier, Stonier, Doglio, Orwall, Senn, Tarleton, McBride, Gregerson, Kagi, Jenkins, Santos, Pollet, Bergquist, Kilduff, Young, and Frame)

1 AN ACT Relating to eliminating the parent or guardian approval  
2 requirement for the college bound scholarship pledge; and amending  
3 RCW 28B.118.010 and 28B.118.040.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.118.010 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 20 s 11 are each  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 The office of student financial assistance shall design the  
8 Washington college bound scholarship program in accordance with this  
9 section and in alignment with the state need grant program in chapter  
10 28B.92 RCW unless otherwise provided in this section.

11 (1) "Eligible students" are those students who:

12 (a) Qualify for free or reduced-price lunches. If a student  
13 qualifies in the seventh grade, the student remains eligible even if  
14 the student does not receive free or reduced-price lunches  
15 thereafter;

16 (b) Are dependent pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW and:

17 (i) In grade seven through twelve; or

18 (ii) Are between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one and have not  
19 graduated from high school; or

20 (c) Were dependent pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW and were adopted  
21 between the ages of fourteen and eighteen with a negotiated adoption

1 agreement that includes continued eligibility for the Washington  
2 state college bound scholarship program pursuant to RCW 74.13A.025.

3 (2) Eligible students and the students' parents or guardians  
4 shall be notified of (~~their~~) the student's eligibility for the  
5 Washington college bound scholarship program beginning in (~~their~~)  
6 the student's seventh grade year. Students and the students' parents  
7 or guardians shall also be notified of the requirements for award of  
8 the scholarship.

9 (3)(a) To be eligible for a Washington college bound scholarship,  
10 a student eligible under subsection (1)(a) of this section must sign  
11 a pledge during seventh or eighth grade that includes a commitment to  
12 graduate from high school with at least a C average and with no  
13 felony convictions. The pledge must be witnessed by a parent or  
14 guardian and forwarded to the office of student financial assistance  
15 by mail or electronically, as indicated on the pledge form.

16 (b)(i) Beginning in the 2018-19 academic year, the office of  
17 student financial assistance shall make multiple attempts to secure  
18 the signature of the student's parent or guardian for the purpose of  
19 witnessing the pledge.

20 (ii) If the signature of the student's parent or guardian is not  
21 obtained, the office of student financial assistance may partner with  
22 the school counselor or administrator to secure the parent's or  
23 guardian's signature to witness the pledge. The school counselor or  
24 administrator shall make multiple attempts via all phone numbers,  
25 email addresses, and mailing addresses on record to secure the  
26 parent's or guardian's signature. All attempts to contact the parent  
27 or guardian must be documented and maintained in the student's  
28 official file.

29 (iii) If a parent's or guardian's signature is still not  
30 obtained, the school counselor or administrator shall indicate to the  
31 office of student financial assistance the nature of the unsuccessful  
32 efforts to contact the student's parent or guardian and the reasons  
33 the signature is not available. Then the school counselor or  
34 administrator may witness the pledge unless the parent or guardian  
35 has indicated that he or she does not wish for the student to  
36 participate in the program.

37 (c) A student eligible under subsection (1)(b) of this section  
38 shall be automatically enrolled, with no action necessary by the  
39 student or the student's family, and the enrollment form must be  
40 forwarded by the department of social and health services to the

1 ((higher education coordinating board or its successor)) office of  
2 student financial assistance by mail or electronically, as indicated  
3 on the form.

4 (4)(a) Scholarships shall be awarded to eligible students  
5 graduating from public high schools, approved private high schools  
6 under chapter 28A.195 RCW, or who received home-based instruction  
7 under chapter 28A.200 RCW.

8 (b)(i) To receive the Washington college bound scholarship, a  
9 student must graduate with at least a "C" average from a public high  
10 school or an approved private high school under chapter 28A.195 RCW  
11 in Washington or have received home-based instruction under chapter  
12 28A.200 RCW, must have no felony convictions, and must be a resident  
13 student as defined in RCW 28B.15.012(2) (a) through (d).

14 (ii) For eligible children as defined in subsection (1)(b) and  
15 (c) of this section, to receive the Washington college bound  
16 scholarship, a student must have received a high school equivalency  
17 certificate as provided in RCW 28B.50.536 or have graduated with at  
18 least a "C" average from a public high school or an approved private  
19 high school under chapter 28A.195 RCW in Washington or have received  
20 home-based instruction under chapter 28A.200 RCW, must have no felony  
21 convictions, and must be a resident student as defined in RCW  
22 28B.15.012(2) (a) through (d).

23 For a student who does not meet the "C" average requirement, and  
24 who completes fewer than two quarters in the running start program,  
25 under chapter 28A.600 RCW, the student's first quarter of running  
26 start course grades must be excluded from the student's overall grade  
27 point average for purposes of determining their eligibility to  
28 receive the scholarship.

29 (5) A student's family income will be assessed upon graduation  
30 before awarding the scholarship.

31 (6) If at graduation from high school the student's family income  
32 does not exceed sixty-five percent of the state median family income,  
33 scholarship award amounts shall be as provided in this section.

34 (a) For students attending two or four-year institutions of  
35 higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, the value of the award  
36 shall be (i) the difference between the student's tuition and  
37 required fees, less the value of any state-funded grant, scholarship,  
38 or waiver assistance the student receives; (ii) plus five hundred  
39 dollars for books and materials.

1 (b) For students attending private four-year institutions of  
2 higher education in Washington, the award amount shall be the  
3 representative average of awards granted to students in public  
4 research universities in Washington or the representative average of  
5 awards granted to students in public research universities in  
6 Washington in the 2014-15 academic year, whichever is greater.

7 (c) For students attending private vocational schools in  
8 Washington, the award amount shall be the representative average of  
9 awards granted to students in public community and technical colleges  
10 in Washington or the representative average of awards granted to  
11 students in public community and technical colleges in Washington in  
12 the 2014-15 academic year, whichever is greater.

13 (7) Recipients may receive no more than four full-time years'  
14 worth of scholarship awards.

15 (8) Institutions of higher education shall award the student all  
16 need-based and merit-based financial aid for which the student would  
17 otherwise qualify. The Washington college bound scholarship is  
18 intended to replace unmet need, loans, and, at the student's option,  
19 work-study award before any other grants or scholarships are reduced.

20 (9) The first scholarships shall be awarded to students  
21 graduating in 2012.

22 (10) The state of Washington retains legal ownership of tuition  
23 units awarded as scholarships under this chapter until the tuition  
24 units are redeemed. These tuition units shall remain separately held  
25 from any tuition units owned under chapter 28B.95 RCW by a Washington  
26 college bound scholarship recipient.

27 (11) The scholarship award must be used within five years of  
28 receipt. Any unused scholarship tuition units revert to the  
29 Washington college bound scholarship account.

30 (12) Should the recipient terminate his or her enrollment for any  
31 reason during the academic year, the unused portion of the  
32 scholarship tuition units shall revert to the Washington college  
33 bound scholarship account.

34 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.118.040 and 2015 c 244 s 4 are each amended to  
35 read as follows:

36 The office of student financial assistance shall:

37 (1) With the assistance of the office of the superintendent of  
38 public instruction, implement and administer the Washington college  
39 bound scholarship program;

1 (2) Develop and distribute, to all schools with students enrolled  
2 in grade seven or eight, a pledge form that can be completed and  
3 returned electronically or by mail by the student or the school to  
4 the office of student financial assistance;

5 (3) Develop and implement a student application, selection, and  
6 notification process for scholarships, which includes working with  
7 other state agencies, law enforcement, or the court system to verify  
8 that eligible students do not have felony convictions;

9 (4) Annually in March, with the assistance of the office of the  
10 superintendent of public instruction, distribute to tenth grade  
11 college bound scholarship students and their families: (a)  
12 Notification that, to qualify for the scholarship, a student's family  
13 income may not exceed sixty-five percent of the state median family  
14 income at graduation from high school; (b) the current year's value  
15 for sixty-five percent of the state median family income; and (c) a  
16 statement that a student should consult their school counselor if  
17 their family makes, or is projected to make, more than this value  
18 before the student graduates;

19 (5) Develop comprehensive social media outreach with grade-level  
20 specific information designed to keep students on track to graduate  
21 and leverage current tools such as the high school and beyond plan  
22 required by the state board of education and the ready set grad web  
23 site maintained by the student achievement council;

24 (6) Track scholarship recipients to ensure continued eligibility  
25 and determine student compliance for awarding of scholarships;

26 (7) Within existing resources, collaborate with college access  
27 providers and K-12, postsecondary, and youth-serving organizations to  
28 map and coordinate mentoring and advising resources across the state;

29 (8) Subject to appropriation, deposit funds into the state  
30 educational trust fund;

31 (9) Purchase tuition units under the advanced college tuition  
32 payment program in chapter 28B.95 RCW to be owned and held in trust  
33 by the (~~board~~) office of student financial assistance, for the  
34 purpose of scholarship awards as provided for in this section; and

35 (10) Distribute scholarship funds, in the form of tuition units  
36 purchased under the advanced college tuition payment program in  
37 chapter 28B.95 RCW or through direct payments from the state  
38 educational trust fund, to institutions of higher education on behalf

1 of scholarship recipients identified by the office, as long as  
2 recipients maintain satisfactory academic progress.

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