

SENATE BILL REPORT

EHB 1687

As of February 21, 2022

Title: An act relating to enhancing the college bound scholarship program by increasing opportunities for students to attend community and technical colleges.

Brief Description: Enhancing the college bound scholarship program by increasing opportunities for students to attend community and technical colleges.

Sponsors: Representatives Bergquist, Leavitt, Ramel, Sells, Johnson, J., Bateman, Valdez, Paul, Callan, Davis, Goodman, Gregerson, Taylor, Ramos, Santos, Sullivan, Riccelli, Harris-Talley, Hackney and Kloba.

Brief History: Passed House: 2/12/22, 84-14.

Committee Activity: Higher Education & Workforce Development: 2/22/22.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Eliminates the grade point average requirement for all students other than those seeking direct admission to a public or private four-year institution of higher education.
- Requires the Education Research and Data Center to annually send College Bound Scholarship data submitted by the institutions of higher education to the Washington Student Achievement Council.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Staff: Alicia Kinne-Clawson (786-7407)

Background: The College Bound Scholarship Program (CBS) was established in 2007 to provide guaranteed four-year tuition to students from low-income families. The first CBS awards were granted to the graduating high school class of 2012. Eligible students for the

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CBS include those who:

- qualify for free or reduced-price lunches in the seventh grade, eighth grade, or in certain circumstances, ninth grade; or
- are independent from parents or guardians, or are receiving extended foster care services; and
 - are in grades 7 through 12; or
 - are between the ages of 18 and 21 years and have not graduated from high school.

Beginning in the seventh grade, eligible students are automatically enrolled in the CBS by the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC). Students and parents are notified of the student's eligibility and the scholarship's requirements. To receive the CBS, a student must graduate from high school with at least a C grade point average, have no felony convictions, and have a family income that does not exceed 65 percent of the state median family income.

Summary of Bill: For CBS eligible students enrolling in a postsecondary education institution for the first time beginning with the 2022-23 academic year, a C grade point average is required only for those students seeking direct admission to a public or private four-year institution of higher education.

Additional data points on grade point averages are added to the information that higher education institutions must submit to the Education Research and Data Center (ERDC). The ERDC must annually send the CBS data submitted by the higher education institutions to WSAC beginning with July 1, 2023. WSAC must submit an annual legislative report on the CBS data beginning November 1, 2023.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.