
ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1659

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Slatter, Sullivan, Leavitt, Ryu, Morgan, Berry, Ramel, Thai, Wicks, Sells, J. Johnson, Berg, Bateman, Valdez, Chopp, Walen, Fey, Goodman, Gregerson, Taylor, Macri, Simmons, Wylie, Kloba, Pollet, Ormsby, Harris-Talley, Hackney, and Frame)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/22.

1 AN ACT Relating to making higher education more affordable and
2 accessible for students by bridging the gap between cost and need to
3 reduce barriers, improve opportunity, and advance economic security;
4 amending RCW 28B.92.030 and 28B.92.205; adding a new section to
5 chapter 28B.92 RCW; creating new sections; and repealing RCW
6 28B.92.060, 28B.92.070, and 28B.92.110.

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that Washington is
9 not on track to meet the state's educational attainment goal that at
10 least 70 percent of adults, aged 25 to 44, have a postsecondary
11 credential by the year 2023. Adults without a postsecondary
12 credential are more at risk of unemployment, less likely to earn a
13 living wage, and more vulnerable to economic downturns. The student
14 achievement council has deemed that there are four areas essential to
15 achieve the state's 70 percent attainment goal: Affordability,
16 enrollment, completion, and student supports. In terms of
17 affordability, the legislature recognizes that the Washington college
18 grant is one of the country's largest and most generous financial aid
19 programs. However, the legislature also recognizes that despite an
20 increase in financial aid funding and eligibility, enrollments at
21 institutions of higher education are down due to the COVID-19

1 pandemic. Many prospective students have made the decision to delay
2 pursuing higher education for a myriad of reasons. However, fewer
3 enrollments mean fewer graduates going on to work in high paying
4 jobs, which could have a significant impact on the state's workforce
5 and economy in the future.

6 The legislature intends to continue to work towards making higher
7 education more affordable and accessible for the state's population
8 by expanding the Washington college grant program. In addition, the
9 legislature intends to provide additional support beyond tuition and
10 fees with the recognition that many students struggle to pay for
11 books, supplies, room and board, transportation, child care, and more
12 while pursuing their education. Grants beyond tuition and fees can
13 help bridge the gap for students who are struggling to pay for the
14 entire cost of attendance at an institution of higher education, and
15 are often the difference between a student staying enrolled and
16 completing his or her education and dropping out. Since the
17 legislature intends that the grant be provided to the student to
18 assist with basic needs expenses, the legislature recognizes that the
19 student should have a choice in whether the grant is received for
20 those expenses or is applied to a student's account to cover
21 additional institutional costs. Therefore, the legislature intends to
22 bridge the gap and support students by making postsecondary education
23 more affordable, encouraging more enrollments, and helping students
24 complete their credentials so tomorrow's workforce and economy are
25 stronger.

26 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.92.030 and 2019 c 406 s 21 are each amended to
27 read as follows:

28 As used in this chapter:

29 (1) "Bridge grant" means an annual stipend provided in addition
30 to the Washington college grant to provide supplementary financial
31 support to low-income students to cover higher education expenses
32 beyond tuition and fees, such as books, lab fees, supplies,
33 technology, transportation, housing, and child care.

34 (2) "Council" means the student achievement council.

35 (~~(2)~~) (3) "Financial aid" means either loans, grants, or both,
36 to students who demonstrate financial need enrolled or accepted for
37 enrollment as a student at institutions of higher education.

1 ~~((3))~~ (4) "Financial need" means a demonstrated financial
2 inability to bear the total cost of education as directed in rule by
3 the office.

4 ~~((4))~~ (5) "Gift aid" means financial aid received, such as
5 grants, scholarships, or worker retraining assistance that provides
6 funds for educational purposes with no obligation of repayment. "Gift
7 aid" does not include student loans, work-study programs, the basic
8 food employment and training program administered by the department
9 of social and health services, or other employment assistance
10 programs that provide job readiness opportunities and support beyond
11 the costs of tuition, books, and fees.

12 (6) "Institution" or "institutions of higher education" means:

13 (a) Any public university, college, community college, or
14 technical college operated by the state of Washington or any
15 political subdivision thereof; ~~((or))~~

16 (b) Any other university, college, school, or institute in the
17 state of Washington offering instruction beyond the high school level
18 that is a member institution of an accrediting association recognized
19 by rule of the council for the purposes of this section and that
20 agrees to and complies with program rules adopted pursuant to RCW
21 28B.92.150. However, any institution, branch, extension or facility
22 operating within the state of Washington that is affiliated with an
23 institution operating in another state must be:

24 (i) A separately accredited member institution of any such
25 accrediting association;

26 (ii) A branch of a member institution of an accrediting
27 association recognized by rule of the council for purposes of this
28 section, that is eligible for federal student financial aid
29 assistance and has operated as a nonprofit college or university
30 delivering on-site classroom instruction for a minimum of ~~((twenty))~~
31 20 consecutive years within the state of Washington, and has an
32 annual enrollment of at least ~~((seven—hundred))~~ 700 full-time
33 equivalent students; or

34 (iii) A nonprofit institution recognized by the state of
35 Washington as provided in RCW 28B.77.240; or

36 ~~((iv))~~ (c) An approved apprenticeship program under chapter
37 49.04 RCW.

38 ~~((5))~~ (7) "Maximum Washington college grant":

39 (a) For students attending two or four-year institutions of
40 higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, is tuition and

1 estimated fees for (~~fifteen~~) 15 quarter credit hours or the
2 equivalent, as determined by the office, including operating fees,
3 building fees, and services and activities fees.

4 (b) For students attending private four-year not-for-profit
5 institutions of higher education in Washington, in the 2019-20
6 academic year, is (~~nine thousand seven hundred thirty-nine dollars~~)
7 \$9,739 and may increase each year afterwards by no more than the
8 tuition growth factor.

9 (c) For students attending two-year private not-for-profit
10 institutions of higher education in Washington, in the 2019-20
11 academic year, is (~~three thousand six hundred ninety-four dollars~~)
12 \$3,694 and may increase each year afterwards by no more than the
13 tuition growth factor.

14 (d) For students attending four-year private for-profit
15 institutions of higher education in Washington, in the 2019-20
16 academic year, is (~~eight thousand five hundred seventeen dollars~~)
17 \$8,517 and may increase each year afterwards by no more than the
18 tuition growth factor.

19 (e) For students attending two-year private for-profit
20 institutions of higher education in Washington, in the 2019-20
21 academic year, is (~~two thousand eight hundred twenty-three dollars~~)
22 \$2,823 and may increase each year afterwards by no more than the
23 tuition growth factor.

24 (f) For students attending Western Governors University-
25 Washington, as established in RCW 28B.77.240, in the 2019-20 academic
26 year, is (~~five thousand six hundred nineteen dollars~~) \$5,619 and
27 may increase each year afterwards by no more than the tuition growth
28 factor.

29 (g) For students attending approved apprenticeship programs, is
30 tuition and fees, as determined by the office, in addition to
31 required program supplies and equipment.

32 (~~(+6)~~) (8) "Office" means the office of student financial
33 assistance.

34 (~~(+7)~~) (9) "Tuition growth factor" means an increase of no more
35 than the average annual percentage growth rate of the median hourly
36 wage for Washington for the previous (~~fourteen~~) 14 years as the
37 wage is determined by the federal bureau of labor statistics.

38 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.92
39 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) As part of the Washington college grant program, all
2 Washington college grant recipients who qualify for the maximum
3 Washington college grant are entitled to also receive an annual
4 bridge grant.

5 (2) The office shall award bridge grants to eligible students
6 beginning with the 2022-23 academic year.

7 (a) For the 2022-23 and 2023-24 academic years, Washington
8 college grant recipients who receive a maximum award, but who are not
9 recipients of the college bound scholarship program under chapter
10 28B.118 RCW, shall receive a \$500 annual bridge grant.

11 (b) Beginning with the 2024-25 academic year, bridge grant awards
12 shall be as follows:

13 (i) For Washington college grant recipients who receive a maximum
14 award, but who are not recipients of the college bound scholarship
15 program under chapter 28B.118 RCW, the annual maximum value of a
16 bridge grant award shall be \$1,000.

17 (ii) For Washington college grant recipients who receive a
18 maximum award, but who are also recipients of the college bound
19 scholarship program under chapter 28B.118 RCW, the annual maximum
20 value of a bridge grant award shall be \$500.

21 (3) To receive the full bridge grant for which the student
22 qualifies, the student needs to be enrolled in an institution of
23 higher education on at least a half-time basis.

24 (4) The bridge grant shall be applied to a student's financial
25 aid package after all other gift aid has been awarded to the student.

26 (5) The office shall ensure that each institution of higher
27 education provides students with the option to either apply the
28 bridge grant to the student's account or have the bridge grant
29 disbursed to the student.

30 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28B.92.205 and 2019 c 406 s 20 are each amended to
31 read as follows:

32 In addition to other eligibility requirements outlined in this
33 chapter, students who demonstrate financial need are eligible to
34 receive the Washington college grant. Financial need is as follows:

35 (1) ~~((Until academic year 2020-21, students with family incomes~~
36 ~~between zero and fifty percent of the state median family income,~~
37 ~~adjusted for family size, shall receive the maximum Washington~~
38 ~~college grant as defined in RCW 28B.92.030. Grants for students with~~
39 ~~incomes between fifty-one and seventy percent of the state median~~

1 family income, adjusted for family size, shall be prorated at the
2 following percentages of the maximum Washington college grant amount:

3 ~~(a) Seventy percent for students with family incomes between~~
4 ~~fifty-one and fifty-five percent of the state median family income;~~

5 ~~(b) Sixty-five percent for students with family incomes between~~
6 ~~fifty-six and sixty percent of the state median family income;~~

7 ~~(c) Sixty percent for students with family incomes between sixty-~~
8 ~~one and sixty-five percent of the state median family income; and~~

9 ~~(d) Fifty percent for students with family incomes between sixty-~~
10 ~~six and seventy percent of the state median family income.~~

11 ~~(2))~~ For academic years 2022-23 and 2023-24, students with
12 family incomes between zero and 60 percent of the state median family
13 income, adjusted for family size, shall receive the maximum
14 Washington college grant as defined in RCW 28B.92.030. Grants for
15 students with incomes between 61 and 100 percent of the state median
16 family income, adjusted for family size, shall be prorated at the
17 following percentages of the maximum Washington college grant amount:

18 (a) Sixty percent for students with family incomes between 61 and
19 70 percent of the state median family income;

20 (b) Fifty percent for students with family incomes between 71 and
21 75 percent of the state median family income;

22 (c) Twenty-five percent for students with family incomes between
23 76 and 80 percent of the state median family income; and

24 (d) Ten percent for students with family incomes between 81 and
25 100 percent of the state median family income.

26 (2) Beginning with academic year ((2020-21)) 2024-25, students
27 with family incomes between zero and ((fifty-five)) 70 percent of the
28 state median family income, adjusted for family size, shall receive
29 the maximum Washington college grant as defined in RCW 28B.92.030.
30 Grants for students with incomes between ((fifty-six)) 71 and ((one
31 hundred)) 100 percent of the state median family income, adjusted for
32 family size, shall be prorated at the following percentages of the
33 maximum Washington college grant amount:

34 ((Seventy)) Fifty percent for students with family incomes
35 between ((fifty-six)) 71 and ((sixty)) 80 percent of the state median
36 family income;

37 ((Sixty)) Twenty-five percent for students with family
38 incomes between ((sixty-one)) 81 and ((sixty-five)) 90 percent of the
39 state median family income; and

1 (c) ~~((Fifty percent for students with family incomes between~~
2 ~~sixty-six and seventy percent of the state median family income;~~
3 ~~(d) Twenty-four and one-half percent for students with family~~
4 ~~incomes between seventy-one and seventy-five percent of the state~~
5 ~~median family income; and~~
6 ~~(e))~~ Ten percent for students with family incomes between
7 ~~((seventy-six))~~ 91 and ~~((one hundred))~~ 100 percent of the state
8 median family income.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The following acts or parts of acts are
10 each repealed:

11 (1) RCW 28B.92.060 (State need grant awards) and 2019 c 298 s 4 &
12 2012 c 229 s 558;

13 (2) RCW 28B.92.070 (Persian Gulf veterans—Limited application of
14 RCW 28B.92.060) and 2012 c 229 s 559, 2004 c 275 s 38, & 1991 c 164 s
15 3; and

16 (3) RCW 28B.92.110 (Application of award) and 2009 c 238 s 10,
17 2004 c 275 s 40, & 1969 ex.s. c 222 s 16.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** If specific funding for the purposes of
19 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
20 provided by June 30, 2022, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
21 act is null and void.

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