**1823.E AMS WM S3003.1 - NOT FOR FLOOR USE**

**EHB 1823** - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Ways & Means

**ADOPTED AS AMENDED 04/12/2023**

Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**"Sec.**  RCW 28B.93.005 and 2022 c 206 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The legislature finds that college students continue to borrow in order to fund their higher education, despite an increase in access to state financial aid. In Washington state, estimates for the number of borrowers carrying student loan debt are around 800,000 with an average balance around $33,500, resulting in a total outstanding balance of $29.4 billion. Student loan debt outpaces other sources of consumer debt, such as credit card and vehicle debt. While research shows that earning a postsecondary credential positively impacts a person's earning potential, high student loan debt erodes much of this benefit.

(2) The legislature recognizes that people with student loan debt are less likely to get married and start a family, establish small businesses, and buy homes. High student loan debt negatively impacts a person's credit score and their debt-to-income ratio, which impacts their ability to qualify for a mortgage. However, student loan debt does not impact all borrowers the same.

(3) Student loan borrowers who struggle the most are typically lower income, first generation, and students of color. Data from the national center for education statistics of a 12-year longitudinal study based on students who began their education in the 2003-04 academic year found the following for students who defaulted: Almost 90 percent had received a Pell grant at one point; 70 percent were first generation college students; 40 percent were in the bottom quarter of income distribution; and 30 percent were African American.

(4) The legislature recognizes though that student loans are beneficial for students who have no other way to pay for college or have expenses beyond tuition and fees. Student loans can open up postsecondary education opportunities for many and help boost the state's economy by increasing the number of qualified graduates to fulfill workforce shortages. However, the legislature finds that high interest rates that accumulate while the student is in college negatively impact the student's ability to prosper financially and contribute to the state's economy after graduation. The legislature also recognizes that there is very little financial aid available to assist students pursuing graduate studies, despite the state's high demand for qualified professionals in fields with workforce shortages such as behavioral health, nursing, software development, teaching, and more. Therefore, the legislature intends to support students pursuing higher education by establishing a state student loan program that is more affordable than direct federal student loans and private loans. The legislature intends to offer student loans to state residents with financial need who are pursuing ((~~undergraduate and~~)) high-demand graduate studies at a subsidized((~~, one percent~~)) interest rate not to exceed 2.5 percent. The legislature intends for the Washington state student loan program to align with the Washington college grant program, recognizing that student loans are secondary forms of financial aid that often cover expenses beyond tuition. ((~~Based on the feasibility of the state student loan program recommendations developed by the Washington student achievement council, in consultation with the Washington state investment board, and the office of the state treasurer, the legislature intends to finance the Washington state student loan program with a one-time $150,000,000 appropriation to cover annual student loan originations and expenses until repayments are substantial enough to support the program on an ongoing basis.~~))

**Sec.**  RCW 28B.93.010 and 2022 c 206 s 2 are each amended to read as follows:

The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Borrower" means an eligible student who has received a student loan under the Washington student loan program.

(2) "Eligible expenses" means reasonable expenses associated with the costs of acquiring a postsecondary education such as tuition, fees, books, equipment, room and board, and other expenses as determined by the office.

(3) "Eligible graduate program" means an advanced academic degree in a specialized field of study that has a workforce shortage or is considered high demand including, but not limited to, professions in health care, behavioral and mental health, early education, K-12, higher education, law enforcement, public safety, and others, as determined by the office.

(4) "Eligible student" means a student who:

(a) Meets the definition of "resident student" under RCW 28B.15.012(2) (a) through (e);

(b) Has a median family income of 100 percent or less of the state median family income;

(c) Is enrolled in an institution of higher education in an eligible ((~~undergraduate or~~)) graduate program on at least a half-time basis; and

(d) Has completed an annual application for financial aid as approved by the office.

(5) ((~~"Eligible undergraduate program" means a postsecondary education program that leads to a certificate, associate's degree, or bachelor's degree.~~

~~(6)~~)) "Gift aid" means federal, state, institutional, or private financial aid provided for educational purposes with no obligation of repayment. "Gift aid" does not include student loans or work-study programs.

((~~(7)~~)) (6) "Institutions of higher education" includes institutions of higher education authorized to participate in state financial aid programs in accordance with chapter 28B.92 RCW.

((~~(8)~~)) (7) "Office" means the office of student financial assistance established under chapter 28B.76 RCW.

((~~(9)~~)) (8) "Program" means the Washington student loan program.

((~~(10)~~)) (9) "Student loan" means a loan that is approved by the office and awarded to an eligible student to pay for eligible expenses.

**Sec.**  RCW 28B.93.020 and 2022 c 206 s 3 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The Washington student achievement council, in consultation with the office of the state treasurer and the state investment board((~~[,]~~)), shall design a student loan program to assist students who need additional financial support to obtain postsecondary education.

(2) At a minimum, the program design must make recommendations about the following features of a state student loan program and implementation plan:

(a) A low interest rate that is below current federal subsidized student loan interest rates((~~, with one option being a one~~)) not to exceed 2.5 percent ((~~interest rate~~));

(b) ((~~The distribution of loans between graduate students and undergraduate students;~~

~~(c)~~)) The terms of the loans, including:

(i) Loan limits not to exceed $20,000 per borrower;

(ii) Grace periods, including grace periods for active duty members of the national guard who may lose eligibility when being called up for active duty; and

(iii) Minimum postsecondary enrollment standards;

((~~(d)~~)) (c) The terms and administration of a repayment program, including:

(i) Repayment options such as standard loan repayment contracts and the length of the repayment contracts, which shall not exceed 10 years;

(ii) Income-based repayment plans; and

(iii) Terms of loan forgiveness;

((~~(e)~~)) (d) The types and characteristics of borrowers permitted to participate in the program including family income, degree and credential types, and other borrower characteristics. The program must prioritize low-income borrowers; and

((~~(f)~~)) (e) The design and administration of an appeals process.

(3) In the design of the program, the Washington student achievement council may recommend contracting with one or more state-based financial institutions regulated by either chapter 31.12 or 30A.04 RCW to provide loan origination and may contract with a third-party entity to provide loan servicing for the program. The Washington student achievement council must use an open and competitive bid process in the selection of one or more ((~~state-based~~)) financial institutions for loan origination and servicing for the program. A third-party entity providing loan servicing shall comply with all of the requirements for student education loan servicers under chapter 31.04 RCW.

(4) The Washington student achievement council ((~~shall contract with an independent actuary to conduct an analysis on the sustainability of the program design, including the ability of the program to operate as self-sustaining if issuing one percent interest rate loans~~)) may retain a consultant to design a loan program, including one or more financial advisors, to provide consultation on the sustainability of the loan program.

(5) The Washington student achievement council shall provide a report on the design, sustainability, and implementation plan for the program to the governor and the higher education committees of the legislature by December 1, ((~~2022~~)) 2023, in accordance with RCW 43.01.036.

**Sec.**  RCW 28B.93.030 and 2022 c 206 s 4 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The Washington student loan program is created to assist students who need additional financial support to obtain postsecondary education. Beginning in the ((~~2024-25~~)) 2025-26 academic year, the office may award student loans under the program to eligible students from the funds available in RCW 28B.93.060.

(2) The program shall be administered by the office. To the extent practicable, the program design must include the recommendations for program design as provided in the report required under RCW 28B.93.020((~~. Student loans shall not be issued unless the program design recommended in RCW 28B.93.020 is forecasted by an independent actuary to be self-sustaining and the interest rates for the loans issued under the program do not exceed one percent~~)), including that the Washington student loan account have a minimum life cycle of seven years and that loans issued under the program do not exceed 2.5 percent.

(3) The office is responsible for providing administrative support to execute the duties and responsibilities provided in this chapter. The duties and responsibilities include:

(a) Ensure institutions of higher education have a policy for awarding student loans under the program that prioritizes funding for eligible students who have greater unmet financial need, are lowest income, are first generation college students, ((~~and~~)) are demographically underrepresented, do not qualify for federally funded student financial aid, or who have received loans under the program in prior years;

(b) Issue low-interest student loans not to exceed 2.5 percent, of which interest accrues during all periods including during enrollment in an eligible graduate degree program;

(c) Define the terms of repayment, which shall not exceed 10 years in length unless provided for under (f) of this subsection;

(d) Collect and manage repayments from borrowers;

(e) Establish an appeals process;

(f) Exercise discretion to revise repayment obligations in certain cases, such as economic hardship or disability;

(g) Publicize the program; and

(h) Adopt necessary rules.

(4) The office is responsible for establishing and administering an appeals process that resolves appeals from borrowers within ninety days of receipt.

**Sec.**  RCW 28B.93.040 and 2022 c 206 s 5 are each amended to read as follows:

The office ((~~shall~~)) may contract with one or more state-based financial institutions regulated by either chapter 31.12 RCW or chapter 30A.04 RCW to provide loan origination and may contract with a third-party entity to provide loan servicing for the program. A third-party entity providing loan servicing shall comply with all of the requirements for student education loan servicers under chapter 31.04 RCW.

**Sec.**  RCW 28B.93.050 and 2022 c 206 s 6 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The office shall collect data on the program in collaboration with the institutions of higher education. The data must include, but is not limited to:

(a) The number of eligible students who were awarded a student loan;

(b) The number of borrowers;

(c) The average borrowed annual and total balances;

(d) Borrower demographics;

(e) The institutions of higher education and educational fields of borrowers; ((~~and~~))

(f) Postgraduation employment data;

(g) Time to degree completion; and

(h) Repayment statistics, including:

(i) The number of borrowers in active repayment, deferment, delinquency, forbearance, and default;

(ii) The average time it took for borrowers to enter delinquency and default;

(iii) Demographic and educational data of borrowers enrolled in the income-based repayment plan option;

(iv) Demographic and educational data of borrowers in different repayment statuses, including delinquency and default; and

(v) Information about what happened to borrowers who defaulted.

(2) Beginning December 1, ((~~2026~~)) 2027, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the office must submit an annual report on the data collected under subsection (1) of this section and any other relevant information regarding the program to the higher education committees of the legislature.

**Sec.**  RCW 28B.93.060 and 2022 c 206 s 7 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The Washington student loan account is created in the ((~~custody of the state treasurer~~)) state treasury. All receipts from the Washington student loan program must be deposited in the account. Expenditures from the account may be used only for administration and the issuance of new student loans. ((~~Only the executive director of the Washington student achievement council or the executive director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to the allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, moneys~~)) Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation.

(2) The legislature may appropriate no more than $10,000,000 each fiscal year from the account for five consecutive fiscal years, beginning with the first fiscal year from which loans are made from the account.

**Sec.**  RCW 43.79A.040 and 2022 c 244 s 3, 2022 c 206 s 8, 2022 c 183 s 16, and 2022 c 162 s 6 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(1) Money in the treasurer's trust fund may be deposited, invested, and reinvested by the state treasurer in accordance with RCW 43.84.080 in the same manner and to the same extent as if the money were in the state treasury, and may be commingled with moneys in the state treasury for cash management and cash balance purposes.

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

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

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

(b) The following accounts and funds must receive their proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or fund's average daily balance for the period: The 24/7 sobriety account, the Washington promise scholarship account, the Gina Grant Bull memorial legislative page scholarship account, the Rosa Franklin legislative internship program scholarship account, the Washington advanced college tuition payment program account, the Washington college savings program account, the accessible communities account, the Washington achieving a better life experience program account, the Washington career and college pathways innovation challenge program account, the community and technical college innovation account, the agricultural local fund, the American Indian scholarship endowment fund, the behavioral health loan repayment program account, the foster care scholarship endowment fund, the foster care endowed scholarship trust fund, the contract harvesting revolving account, the Washington state combined fund drive account, the commemorative works account, the county enhanced 911 excise tax account, the county road administration board emergency loan account, the toll collection account, the developmental disabilities endowment trust fund, the energy account, the energy facility site evaluation council account, the fair fund, the family and medical leave insurance account, the fish and wildlife federal lands revolving account, the natural resources federal lands revolving account, the food animal veterinarian conditional scholarship account, the forest health revolving account, the fruit and vegetable inspection account, the educator conditional scholarship account, the game farm alternative account, the GET ready for math and science scholarship account, the Washington global health technologies and product development account, the grain inspection revolving fund, the Washington history day account, the industrial insurance rainy day fund, the juvenile accountability incentive account, the law enforcement officers' and firefighters' plan 2 expense fund, the local tourism promotion account, the low-income home rehabilitation revolving loan program account, the multiagency permitting team account, the northeast Washington wolf-livestock management account, the produce railcar pool account, the public use general aviation airport loan revolving account, the regional transportation investment district account, the rural rehabilitation account, the Washington sexual assault kit account, the stadium and exhibition center account, the youth athletic facility account, the self-insurance revolving fund, the children's trust fund, the Washington horse racing commission Washington bred owners' bonus fund and breeder awards account, the Washington horse racing commission class C purse fund account, the individual development account program account, the Washington horse racing commission operating account, the life sciences discovery fund, the Washington state library-archives building account, the reduced cigarette ignition propensity account, the center for deaf and hard of hearing youth account, the school for the blind account, the Millersylvania park trust fund, the public employees' and retirees' insurance reserve fund, the school employees' benefits board insurance reserve fund, the public employees' and retirees' insurance account, the school employees' insurance account, the long-term services and supports trust account, the radiation perpetual maintenance fund, the Indian health improvement reinvestment account, the department of licensing tuition recovery trust fund, the student achievement council tuition recovery trust fund, the tuition recovery trust fund, ((~~the Washington student loan account,~~)) the industrial insurance premium refund account, the mobile home park relocation fund, the natural resources deposit fund, the Washington state health insurance pool account, the federal forest revolving account, and the library operations account.

(c) The following accounts and funds must receive 80 percent of their proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or fund's average daily balance for the period: The advance right-of-way revolving fund, the advanced environmental mitigation revolving account, the federal narcotics asset forfeitures account, the high occupancy vehicle account, the local rail service assistance account, and the miscellaneous transportation programs account.

(d) Any state agency that has independent authority over accounts or funds not statutorily required to be held in the custody of the state treasurer that deposits funds into a fund or account in the custody of the state treasurer pursuant to an agreement with the office of the state treasurer shall receive its proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or fund's average daily balance for the period.

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

**Sec.**  RCW 43.84.092 and 2022 c 182 s 403 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) All earnings of investments of surplus balances in the state treasury shall be deposited to the treasury income account, which account is hereby established in the state treasury.

(2) The treasury income account shall be utilized to pay or receive funds associated with federal programs as required by the federal cash management improvement act of 1990. The treasury income account is subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for refunds or allocations of interest earnings required by the cash management improvement act. Refunds of interest to the federal treasury required under the cash management improvement act fall under RCW 43.88.180 and shall not require appropriation. The office of financial management shall determine the amounts due to or from the federal government pursuant to the cash management improvement act. The office of financial management may direct transfers of funds between accounts as deemed necessary to implement the provisions of the cash management improvement act, and this subsection. Refunds or allocations shall occur prior to the distributions of earnings set forth in subsection (4) of this section.

(3) Except for the provisions of RCW 43.84.160, the treasury income account may be utilized for the payment of purchased banking services on behalf of treasury funds including, but not limited to, depository, safekeeping, and disbursement functions for the state treasury and affected state agencies. The treasury income account is subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for payments to financial institutions. Payments shall occur prior to distribution of earnings set forth in subsection (4) of this section.

(4) Monthly, the state treasurer shall distribute the earnings credited to the treasury income account. The state treasurer shall credit the general fund with all the earnings credited to the treasury income account except:

(a) The following accounts and funds shall receive their proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's and fund's average daily balance for the period: The abandoned recreational vehicle disposal account, the aeronautics account, the Alaskan Way viaduct replacement project account, the ambulance transport fund, the brownfield redevelopment trust fund account, the budget stabilization account, the capital vessel replacement account, the capitol building construction account, the Central Washington University capital projects account, the charitable, educational, penal and reformatory institutions account, the Chehalis basin account, the Chehalis basin taxable account, the cleanup settlement account, the climate active transportation account, the climate transit programs account, the Columbia river basin water supply development account, the Columbia river basin taxable bond water supply development account, the Columbia river basin water supply revenue recovery account, the common school construction fund, the community forest trust account, the connecting Washington account, the county arterial preservation account, the county criminal justice assistance account, the deferred compensation administrative account, the deferred compensation principal account, the department of licensing services account, the department of retirement systems expense account, the developmental disabilities community services account, the diesel idle reduction account, the drinking water assistance account, the administrative subaccount of the drinking water assistance account, the early learning facilities development account, the early learning facilities revolving account, the Eastern Washington University capital projects account, the education construction fund, the education legacy trust account, the election account, the electric vehicle account, the energy freedom account, the energy recovery act account, the essential rail assistance account, The Evergreen State College capital projects account, the fair start for kids account, the ferry bond retirement fund, the fish, wildlife, and conservation account, the freight mobility investment account, the freight mobility multimodal account, the grade crossing protective fund, the public health services account, the state higher education construction account, the higher education construction account, the higher education retirement plan supplemental benefit fund, the Washington student loan account, the highway bond retirement fund, the highway infrastructure account, the highway safety fund, the hospital safety net assessment fund, the Interstate 405 and state route number 167 express toll lanes account, the judges' retirement account, the judicial retirement administrative account, the judicial retirement principal account, the limited fish and wildlife account, the local leasehold excise tax account, the local real estate excise tax account, the local sales and use tax account, the marine resources stewardship trust account, the medical aid account, the money-purchase retirement savings administrative account, the money-purchase retirement savings principal account, the motor vehicle fund, the motorcycle safety education account, the move ahead WA account, the move ahead WA flexible account, the multimodal transportation account, the multiuse roadway safety account, the municipal criminal justice assistance account, the oyster reserve land account, the pension funding stabilization account, the perpetual surveillance and maintenance account, the pilotage account, the pollution liability insurance agency underground storage tank revolving account, the public employees' retirement system plan 1 account, the public employees' retirement system combined plan 2 and plan 3 account, the public facilities construction loan revolving account, the public health supplemental account, the public works assistance account, the Puget Sound capital construction account, the Puget Sound ferry operations account, the Puget Sound Gateway facility account, the Puget Sound taxpayer accountability account, the real estate appraiser commission account, the recreational vehicle account, the regional mobility grant program account, the resource management cost account, the rural arterial trust account, the rural mobility grant program account, the rural Washington loan fund, the sexual assault prevention and response account, the site closure account, the skilled nursing facility safety net trust fund, the small city pavement and sidewalk account, the special category C account, the special wildlife account, the state investment board expense account, the state investment board commingled trust fund accounts, the state patrol highway account, the state reclamation revolving account, the state route number 520 civil penalties account, the state route number 520 corridor account, the statewide broadband account, the statewide tourism marketing account, the supplemental pension account, the Tacoma Narrows toll bridge account, the teachers' retirement system plan 1 account, the teachers' retirement system combined plan 2 and plan 3 account, the tobacco prevention and control account, the tobacco settlement account, the toll facility bond retirement account, the transportation 2003 account (nickel account), the transportation equipment fund, the transportation future funding program account, the transportation improvement account, the transportation improvement board bond retirement account, the transportation infrastructure account, the transportation partnership account, the traumatic brain injury account, the University of Washington bond retirement fund, the University of Washington building account, the voluntary cleanup account, the volunteer firefighters' and reserve officers' relief and pension principal fund, the volunteer firefighters' and reserve officers' administrative fund, the vulnerable roadway user education account, the Washington judicial retirement system account, the Washington law enforcement officers' and firefighters' system plan 1 retirement account, the Washington law enforcement officers' and firefighters' system plan 2 retirement account, the Washington public safety employees' plan 2 retirement account, the Washington school employees' retirement system combined plan 2 and 3 account, the Washington state patrol retirement account, the Washington State University building account, the Washington State University bond retirement fund, the water pollution control revolving administration account, the water pollution control revolving fund, the Western Washington University capital projects account, the Yakima integrated plan implementation account, the Yakima integrated plan implementation revenue recovery account, and the Yakima integrated plan implementation taxable bond account. Earnings derived from investing balances of the agricultural permanent fund, the normal school permanent fund, the permanent common school fund, the scientific permanent fund, and the state university permanent fund shall be allocated to their respective beneficiary accounts.

(b) Any state agency that has independent authority over accounts or funds not statutorily required to be held in the state treasury that deposits funds into a fund or account in the state treasury pursuant to an agreement with the office of the state treasurer shall receive its proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or fund's average daily balance for the period.

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

**Sec.**  RCW 43.84.092 and 2022 c 182 s 404 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) All earnings of investments of surplus balances in the state treasury shall be deposited to the treasury income account, which account is hereby established in the state treasury.

(2) The treasury income account shall be utilized to pay or receive funds associated with federal programs as required by the federal cash management improvement act of 1990. The treasury income account is subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for refunds or allocations of interest earnings required by the cash management improvement act. Refunds of interest to the federal treasury required under the cash management improvement act fall under RCW 43.88.180 and shall not require appropriation. The office of financial management shall determine the amounts due to or from the federal government pursuant to the cash management improvement act. The office of financial management may direct transfers of funds between accounts as deemed necessary to implement the provisions of the cash management improvement act, and this subsection. Refunds or allocations shall occur prior to the distributions of earnings set forth in subsection (4) of this section.

(3) Except for the provisions of RCW 43.84.160, the treasury income account may be utilized for the payment of purchased banking services on behalf of treasury funds including, but not limited to, depository, safekeeping, and disbursement functions for the state treasury and affected state agencies. The treasury income account is subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for payments to financial institutions. Payments shall occur prior to distribution of earnings set forth in subsection (4) of this section.

(4) Monthly, the state treasurer shall distribute the earnings credited to the treasury income account. The state treasurer shall credit the general fund with all the earnings credited to the treasury income account except:

(a) The following accounts and funds shall receive their proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's and fund's average daily balance for the period: The abandoned recreational vehicle disposal account, the aeronautics account, the Alaskan Way viaduct replacement project account, the brownfield redevelopment trust fund account, the budget stabilization account, the capital vessel replacement account, the capitol building construction account, the Central Washington University capital projects account, the charitable, educational, penal and reformatory institutions account, the Chehalis basin account, the Chehalis basin taxable account, the cleanup settlement account, the climate active transportation account, the climate transit programs account, the Columbia river basin water supply development account, the Columbia river basin taxable bond water supply development account, the Columbia river basin water supply revenue recovery account, the common school construction 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account, the Washington law enforcement officers' and firefighters' system plan 1 retirement account, the Washington law enforcement officers' and firefighters' system plan 2 retirement account, the Washington public safety employees' plan 2 retirement account, the Washington school employees' retirement system combined plan 2 and 3 account, the Washington state patrol retirement account, the Washington State University building account, the Washington State University bond retirement fund, the water pollution control revolving administration account, the water pollution control revolving fund, the Western Washington University capital projects account, the Yakima integrated plan implementation account, the Yakima integrated plan implementation revenue recovery account, and the Yakima integrated plan implementation taxable bond account. Earnings derived from investing balances of the agricultural permanent fund, the normal school permanent fund, the permanent common school fund, the scientific permanent fund, and the state university permanent fund shall be allocated to their respective beneficiary accounts.

(b) Any state agency that has independent authority over accounts or funds not statutorily required to be held in the state treasury that deposits funds into a fund or account in the state treasury pursuant to an agreement with the office of the state treasurer shall receive its proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or fund's average daily balance for the period.

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

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  Section 9 of this act expires July 1, 2024.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  Section 10 of this act takes effect July 1, 2024."

**EHB 1823** - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Ways & Means

**ADOPTED AS AMENDED 04/12/2023**

On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "program;" strike the remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 28B.93.005, 28B.93.010, 28B.93.020, 28B.93.030, 28B.93.040, 28B.93.050, 28B.93.060, 43.84.092, and 43.84.092; reenacting and amending RCW 43.79A.040; providing an effective date; and providing an expiration date."

EFFECT: (1) Requires that the maximum interest rate for the student loan program does not exceed 2.5 percent and accrues during all periods including while enrolled in school.

(2) Specifies a maximum borrowing limit of $20,000 per person.

(3) Limits the repayment period to 10 years except in cases where WSAC determines a financial hardship or other extenuating circumstances exist and revises repayment obligations.

(4) Makes the Washington student loan account an appropriated account. Requires that appropriations from the account only be for administration of the program and issuance of new loans. Limits appropriations to $10 million annually and $50 million total.

(5) Eliminates the requirement that in the design of the program, WSAC recommend contracting with state-based financial institutions.