
SENATE BILL 5554

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senators Nguyen, Conway, Hasegawa, Hunt, Nobles, Randall, Valdez, and C. Wilson

Read first time 01/25/23. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to Washington college grant award amounts;
2 amending RCW 28B.92.030; and adding a new section to chapter 28B.92
3 RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.92.030 and 2022 c 166 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

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

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

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

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

15 (4) "Institution" or "institutions of higher education" means:

16 (a) Any public university, college, community college, or
17 technical college operated by the state of Washington or any
18 political subdivision thereof; or

19 (b) Any other university, college, school, or institute in the
20 state of Washington offering instruction beyond the high school level
21 that is a member institution of an accrediting association recognized

1 by rule of the council for the purposes of this section and that
2 agrees to and complies with program rules adopted pursuant to RCW
3 28B.92.150. However, any institution, branch, extension or facility
4 operating within the state of Washington that is affiliated with an
5 institution operating in another state must be:

6 (i) A separately accredited member institution of any such
7 accrediting association;

8 (ii) A branch of a member institution of an accrediting
9 association recognized by rule of the council for purposes of this
10 section, that is eligible for federal student financial aid
11 assistance and has operated as a nonprofit college or university
12 delivering on-site classroom instruction for a minimum of (~~twenty~~)
13 20 consecutive years within the state of Washington, and has an
14 annual enrollment of at least (~~seven hundred~~) 700 full-time
15 equivalent students;

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

18 (iv) An approved apprenticeship program under chapter 49.04 RCW.

19 (5) "Maximum Washington college grant":

20 (a) For students attending two or four-year institutions of
21 higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, is tuition and
22 estimated fees for (~~fifteen~~) 15 quarter credit hours or the
23 equivalent, as determined by the office, including operating fees,
24 building fees, and services and activities fees.

25 (b) For students attending private four-year not-for-profit
26 institutions of higher education in Washington, in the 2019-20
27 academic year, is (~~nine thousand seven hundred thirty-nine dollars~~)
28 \$9,739 and (~~may~~) must increase each year (~~afterwards~~) beginning
29 in the 2023-24 academic year by (~~no more than~~) the tuition growth
30 factor.

31 (c) For students attending two-year private not-for-profit
32 institutions of higher education in Washington, in the 2019-20
33 academic year, is (~~three thousand six hundred ninety-four dollars~~)
34 \$3,694 and may increase each year afterwards by no more than the
35 tuition growth factor.

36 (d) For students attending four-year private for-profit
37 institutions of higher education in Washington, in the 2019-20
38 academic year, is (~~eight thousand five hundred seventeen dollars~~)
39 \$8,517 and may increase each year afterwards by no more than the
40 tuition growth factor.

1 (e) For students attending two-year private for-profit
2 institutions of higher education in Washington, in the 2019-20
3 academic year, is (~~two thousand eight hundred twenty-three dollars~~)
4 \$2,823 and may increase each year afterwards by no more than the
5 tuition growth factor.

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

11 (g) For students attending approved apprenticeship programs,
12 beginning in the 2022-23 academic year, is the same amount as the
13 maximum Washington college grant for students attending two-year
14 institutions of higher education as defined in (a) of this subsection
15 to be used for tuition and fees, program supplies and equipment, and
16 other costs that facilitate educational endeavors.

17 (h) Upon notification by the office of the attorney general that
18 an institution identified in (a) through (g) of this subsection is
19 subject to a final court order for discriminatory employment
20 practices in violation of chapter 49.60 RCW, as provided for in
21 section 2 of this act, the maximum grant for students attending the
22 institution shall be the award level the institution was receiving at
23 the time of the order, unless the institution has taken corrective
24 action under section 2(1)(a) and (b) of this act.

25 (6) "Office" means the office of student financial assistance.

26 (7) "Tuition growth factor" means an increase of no more than the
27 average annual percentage growth rate of the median hourly wage for
28 Washington for the previous (~~fourteen~~) 14 years as the wage is
29 determined by the federal bureau of labor statistics.

30 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 28B.92
31 RCW to read as follows:

32 (1) Any institution of higher education subject to a final court
33 order for discriminatory employment practices in violation of chapter
34 49.60 RCW filed by the attorney general under RCW 49.60.350 shall not
35 be eligible for adjustments to the maximum Washington college grant
36 award as provided for in RCW 28B.92.030(5) unless:

37 (a) The institution of higher education has fulfilled the
38 conditions or obligations associated with any court order or
39 settlement resulting from the violation; or

1 (b) The institution of higher education has taken significant and
2 meaningful steps to correct the violation, as determined by the
3 Washington state human rights commission.

4 (2) An institution of higher education involved in a court
5 proceeding brought by the attorney general under RCW 49.60.350 may
6 continue to receive the inflationary adjustment provided in RCW
7 28B.92.030 until a final order adjudicates the matter.

--- **END** ---