
SENATE BILL 6300

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Senators Randall, Nobles, Kuderer, Lovelett, Shewmake, Stanford, and Valdez; by request of Student Achievement Council

Read first time 01/24/24. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to permitting beneficiaries of public assistance
2 programs to automatically qualify as income-eligible for the purpose
3 of receiving the Washington college grant; and amending RCW
4 28B.92.200 and 28B.92.225.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.92.200 and 2022 c 214 s 5 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) The Washington college grant program is created to provide a
9 statewide free college program for eligible participants and greater
10 access to postsecondary education for Washington residents. The
11 Washington college grant program is intended to increase the number
12 of high school graduates and adults that can attain a postsecondary
13 credential and provide them with the qualifications needed to compete
14 for job opportunities in Washington.

15 (2) The office shall implement and administer the Washington
16 college grant program and is authorized to establish rules necessary
17 for implementation of the program.

18 (3) The legislature shall appropriate funding for the Washington
19 college grant program. Allocations must be made on the basis of
20 estimated eligible participants enrolled in eligible institutions of
21 higher education or apprenticeship programs. All eligible students

1 are entitled to a Washington college grant beginning in academic year
2 2020-21.

3 (4) The office shall award Washington college grants to all
4 eligible students beginning in academic year 2020-21.

5 (5) To be eligible for the Washington college grant, students
6 must meet the following requirements:

7 (a) (i) Demonstrate financial need under RCW 28B.92.205;

8 (ii) Receive one or more of the following types of public
9 assistance:

10 (A) Aged, blind, or disabled assistance benefits under chapter
11 74.62 RCW;

12 (B) Essential needs and housing support program benefits under
13 RCW 43.185C.220; (~~or~~)

14 (C) Pregnant women assistance program financial grants under RCW
15 74.62.030;

16 (D) Washington basic food program benefits under chapter 74.04
17 RCW; or

18 (E) Washington food assistance program benefits under RCW
19 74.08A.120; or

20 (iii) Be a Washington high school student in the 10th, 11th, or
21 12th grade whose parent or legal guardian is receiving one or more of
22 the types of public assistance listed in (a) (ii) of this subsection
23 and have received a certificate confirming eligibility from the
24 office in accordance with RCW 28B.92.225;

25 (b) (i) Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment for at least three
26 quarter credits or the equivalent semester credits at an institution
27 of higher education in Washington as defined in RCW 28B.92.030; or

28 (ii) Be enrolled in a registered apprenticeship program approved
29 under chapter 49.04 RCW;

30 (c) Be a resident student as defined in RCW 28B.15.012(2) (a)
31 through (e);

32 (d) File an annual application for financial aid as approved by
33 the office; and

34 (e) Must not have earned a baccalaureate degree or higher from a
35 postsecondary institution.

36 (6) Washington college grant eligibility may not extend beyond
37 five years or one hundred twenty-five percent of the published length
38 of the program in which the student is enrolled or the credit or
39 clock-hour equivalent.

1 (7) Institutional aid administrators shall determine whether a
2 student eligible for the Washington college grant in a given academic
3 year may remain eligible for the ensuing year if the student's family
4 income increases by no more than three percent.

5 (8) Qualifications for receipt and renewal include maintaining
6 satisfactory academic progress toward completion of an eligible
7 program as determined by the office and established in rule.

8 (9) Should a recipient terminate his or her enrollment for any
9 reason during the academic year, the unused portion of the grant
10 shall be returned to the state educational grant fund by the
11 institution of higher education according to the institution of
12 higher education's policy for issuing refunds, except as provided in
13 RCW 28B.92.070.

14 (10) An eligible student enrolled on a part-time basis shall
15 receive a prorated portion of the Washington college grant for any
16 academic period in which he or she is enrolled on a part-time basis.

17 (11) The Washington college grant is intended to be used to meet
18 the costs of postsecondary education for students with financial
19 need. The student shall be awarded all need-based financial aid for
20 which the student qualifies as determined by the institution.

21 (12) Students and participating institutions of higher education
22 shall comply with all the rules adopted by the council for the
23 administration of this chapter.

24 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.92.225 and 2022 c 214 s 6 are each amended to
25 read as follows:

26 (1) The office shall enter into a data-sharing agreement with the
27 department of social and health services to facilitate the sharing of
28 individual-level data. ((The)) To the extent allowable under state
29 and federal law, the department of social and health services shall
30 send the office a list of all individuals receiving benefits under
31 the public assistance programs listed under RCW 28B.92.200(5) on at
32 least an annual basis. The office shall use the list to confirm
33 students' eligibility for the Washington college grant program,
34 without requiring the student to fill out a separate financial aid
35 form. The office may also use the information to conduct outreach
36 promoting the Washington college grant.

37 (2) For high school students in 10th, 11th, and 12th grades whose
38 families are receiving benefits under one or more of the public
39 assistance programs listed under RCW 28B.92.200(5), the office shall

1 issue a certificate to the student that validates the student's
2 financial need eligibility for the Washington college grant program.
3 The certificate is good for one year after high school graduation and
4 may be used upon enrollment in an eligible institution of higher
5 education, provided the student meets the other Washington college
6 grant eligibility requirements. The office shall track and maintain
7 records of students who were issued certificates under this section
8 in order to confirm a student's financial need eligibility with an
9 institution of higher education. A student does not need to produce
10 the certificate to receive the Washington college grant.

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