

**ESSB 5998** - H AMD TO H AMD (H-3714.1/26) **2103**

By Representative Keaton

NOT ADOPTED 02/28/2026

1 On page 479, line 36, increase the general fund-state  
2 appropriation for fiscal year 2027 by \$100,000

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4 On page 480, line 6, correct the total.

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6 On page 481, after line 25, insert the following:

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8 "(11) (a) \$100,000 of the general fund-state appropriation for  
9 fiscal year 2027 is provided solely for the council to convene a  
10 workgroup to identify and recommend which qualified scholarship  
11 granting organizations can provide tax credit scholarships as  
12 authorized by H.R. 1, enacted by the 119th United States congress as  
13 P.L. 119-21.

14 (b) The workgroup shall consist of thirteen members, as  
15 described in this subsection, and their appointments must be made no  
16 later than August 1, 2026:

17 (i) The president of the senate shall appoint one member from  
18 each of the two largest caucuses of the senate;

19 (ii) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint  
20 one member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of  
21 representatives;

22 (iii) The president of the senate and the speaker of the house  
23 of representatives jointly shall appoint one member representing the  
24 charter school commission, two members representing the Washington  
25 state school directors' association, and four members representing  
26 the Washington federation of independent schools;

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1 (iv) The governor shall appoint one member representing the  
2 office of the governor; and

3 (v) The superintendent of public instruction shall appoint one  
4 member representing the office of the superintendent of public  
5 instruction.

6 (c) The council shall consult with the United States department  
7 of education and the United States department of the treasury on  
8 administrative and legal matters relating to the state opting into  
9 the tax credit scholarship program.

10 (d) The workgroup shall identify which organizations within  
11 Washington state may meet the criteria to act as a scholarship  
12 granting organization and solicit input from all existing  
13 scholarship granting organizations within the state.

14 (e) The workgroup shall submit a report, pursuant to RCW  
15 43.01.036, to the Governor and appropriate committees of the  
16 legislature by December 1, 2026. The report shall include  
17 recommendations and other guidance for scholarship granting  
18 organizations to administer the tax credit scholarships including:

19 (i) Identification of potential benefits to Washington state,  
20 including but not limited to research on potential impacts to  
21 educational outcomes and potential cost savings for the state;

22 (ii) Anticipated federal funds that would benefit Washington  
23 state students as a result of opting into the program; and

24 (iii) Any other pertinent information that is developed by the  
25 workgroup."

EFFECT: Establishes a workgroup convened by the Washington Student Achievement Council to identify and recommend which qualified scholarship granting organizations can provide tax credit scholarships as authorized by H.R. 1. The workgroup report is to be provided by December 1, 2026.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Increases General Fund - State by \$100,000.

FOUR YEAR OUTLOOK EXPENDITURE EFFECT:

Increases Near General Fund-Outlook by \$100,000.

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