FINAL BILL REPORT
SB 5543

C 288 L 25
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Providing equity in eligibility for the college bound scholarship.

Sponsors: Senators Boehnke, Slatter, Hasegawa, Nobles, Ramos, Valdez and Wilson, C.; by request of State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

Senate Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development
Senate Committee on Ways & Means
House Committee on Postsecondary Education & Workforce
House Committee on Appropriations

Background: The College Bound Scholarship (CBS) provides recipients who attend two-year or four-year public institutions of higher education an award to cover the cost of tuition and fees, minus any state-funded grant, scholarship, or waiver assistance. Recipients attending public institutions also receive $500 for books and materials. The CBS awards for recipients at private institutions may be covered at public tuition rates.

To receive the CBS, a resident student must graduate from high school with at least a C grade point average, have no felony convictions, and have a family income that does not exceed 65 percent of the state median family income. There is no high school grade point average requirement for students to receive the CBS at a community or technical college. Recipients must maintain satisfactory academic progress, and may not receive the scholarship for more than six full-time years.

Dependent students and students who were dependent but adopted between the ages of 14 to 18 can satisfy the requirement to graduate from high school with at least a C grade point average by instead receiving a high school equivalency certificate.

A dependent student is a student who has been abandoned; is abused or neglected by a person legally responsible for the student's care; has no parent, guardian, or custodian capable of adequately caring for the student; or is receiving extended foster care services.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary: Eligibility for the CBS is expanded to students who have received a high school equivalency certificate.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	49	0
House	89	5

Effective: July 27, 2025