
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2055

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By House Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Kagi, O'Brien, Romero, Ogden, Lovick, Kenney, Stensen, Edmonds, Haigh, Schual-Berke, Ruderman, Wood, Constantine, Lantz and Santos)

Read first time 03/02/1999.

1 AN ACT Relating to higher educational opportunities for children
2 who have been in foster care; adding a new section to chapter 28B.80
3 RCW; creating a new section; and making appropriations.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that access to a
6 higher education will give children who are in foster care hope for the
7 future. The legislature further finds that such assistance will help
8 these children become successful, productive, contributing citizens and
9 avoid the cycles of abuse, poverty, violence, and delinquency.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.80 RCW
11 to read as follows:

12 (1) The foster care scholarship program is created. The purpose of
13 the program is to help students who were in foster care attend an
14 institution of higher education in the state of Washington.

15 (2) To the extent funds are appropriated, the higher education
16 coordinating board shall award grants to eligible recipients to help
17 cover the costs of receiving a higher education at an institution of
18 higher education. The grant shall be in an amount not to exceed the

1 costs of obtaining a higher education, excluding tuition. The higher
2 education coordinating board shall establish procedures, by rule, to
3 disburse the awards as direct grants to students.

4 (3) To qualify for the grant, recipients shall be between the ages
5 of sixteen and twenty-three and have been in foster care in the state
6 of Washington for a minimum of six months since their fifteenth
7 birthday. Recipients must be eligible for financial aid under the
8 state student financial aid program. Recipients shall enter an
9 institution of higher education or a vocational program in Washington
10 state within three years of high school graduation or have successfully
11 passed the general educational development test. Recipients shall
12 maintain satisfactory academic and attendance progress as defined by
13 the particular educational institution. Students are eligible to
14 receive a maximum of eight semesters or twelve quarters of grants for
15 undergraduate study if they meet the age requirements under this
16 section. Students may transfer among in-state public and independent
17 colleges and universities in this state and continue to receive the
18 grant.

19 (4) No grant may be awarded to any student who is pursuing a degree
20 in theology.

21 (5) Grants under this section shall not affect eligibility for the
22 state student financial aid program.

23 (6) The higher education coordinating board shall work with the
24 department of social and health services and the superintendent of
25 public instruction to provide information about this program to
26 children in foster care in high schools in the state of Washington and
27 to persons over the age of eighteen who would be eligible for the
28 program.

29 (7) As used in this section, "public college or university" means
30 an institution of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016.

31 (8) As used in this section, "independent college or university"
32 means a private, nonprofit educational institution, the main campus of
33 which is permanently situated in the state, open to residents of the
34 state, providing programs of education beyond the high school level
35 leading at least to the baccalaureate degree, and accredited by the
36 Northwest association of schools and colleges as of the effective date
37 of this section, and other institutions as may be developed that are
38 approved by the higher education coordinating board as meeting

1 equivalent standards as those institutions accredited under this
2 section.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The sum of one hundred thousand dollars,
4 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal
5 year ending June 30, 2000, from the general fund to the higher
6 education coordinating board to carry out the purposes of this act.

7 (2) The sum of one hundred thousand dollars, or as much thereof as
8 may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30,
9 2001, from the general fund to the higher education coordinating board
10 to carry out the purposes of this act.

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