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SENATE BILL 5056

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State of Washington                      56th Legislature                      1999 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen, Winsley and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/11/1999. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to the Washington service scholars program; adding  
2 new sections to chapter 28A.600 RCW; adding a new section to chapter  
3 28B.80 RCW; creating a new section; and making an appropriation.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    Each year high schools in the state of  
6 Washington graduate a significant number of students who made major  
7 contributions to their schools and communities. The purpose of the  
8 Washington service scholars program is to recognize and honor the  
9 accomplishments and contributions of these students, to encourage  
10 students to continue to volunteer in their schools and communities, to  
11 encourage and facilitate privately funded scholarship awards, to  
12 provide an opportunity for higher education for these students, and to  
13 affirm the importance of community service to the future of this state.

14            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 28A.600  
15 RCW to read as follows:

16            The Washington service scholars program is created. The program  
17 shall:

1 (1) Provide annually for the selection of a minimum of three  
2 seniors in each legislative district in the state graduating from high  
3 schools who have distinguished themselves in outstanding service in  
4 their schools or communities;

5 (2) Increase the public awareness of the importance of community  
6 service in Washington state of public and private high school seniors  
7 through appropriate recognition ceremonies and events at both the local  
8 and state level;

9 (3) Provide a listing of all Washington service scholars to all  
10 Washington state public and private colleges and universities to  
11 facilitate communication about academic programs and about  
12 scholarships;

13 (4) Create a state-level method for using private funds for  
14 scholarship awards to high school seniors with outstanding service in  
15 their schools and communities;

16 (5) Provide, on written request and with the permission of the  
17 student, a list of the Washington service scholars to private  
18 scholarship selection committees to notify the scholars about any  
19 available scholarships; and

20 (6) Permit grants under section 7 of this act.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.600  
22 RCW to read as follows:

23 The higher education coordinating board shall administer the  
24 Washington service scholars program. The program shall be developed  
25 cooperatively with the Washington association of secondary school  
26 principals, a voluntary professional association of secondary school  
27 principals, and with organizations promoting school and community  
28 service.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.600  
30 RCW to read as follows:

31 The higher education coordinating board shall create a planning  
32 committee to develop the criteria for selecting students for the  
33 Washington service scholars program. These criteria shall emphasize  
34 school and community service including but not limited to volunteer  
35 work for community organizations, service in schools, involvement in  
36 service-oriented school organizations, individual efforts to help  
37 others and improve the local community, and activities connected with

1 service programs in the school district. The criteria shall require  
2 students to have spent a minimum of one year involved in community or  
3 school service. The planning committee shall include members from  
4 state and private entities having an interest in and responsibility for  
5 education and community service including but not limited to the  
6 superintendent of public instruction, the council of presidents, the  
7 state board for community and technical colleges, and representatives  
8 of volunteer organizations.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.600  
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 Each year, on or before March 1st, the Washington association of  
12 secondary school principals shall submit to the higher education  
13 coordinating board the names of graduating senior high school students  
14 who have been identified and recommended by their high school  
15 principals as performing outstanding school or community service under  
16 the criteria established under section 4 of this act.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.600  
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 The Washington service scholars shall be selected each year from  
20 among the identified students. The higher education coordinating board  
21 shall notify the selected students, their high school principals, the  
22 legislators of their respective districts, the governor, and the  
23 superintendent of public instruction when the final selections have  
24 been made.

25 The board, in cooperation with the governor's office, shall prepare  
26 appropriate certificates to be presented to the Washington service  
27 scholars award recipients. An awards ceremony at an appropriate time  
28 and place shall be planned by the board in cooperation with the  
29 Washington association of secondary school principals and with the  
30 approval of the governor.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.80 RCW  
32 to read as follows:

33 (1) Recipients of the Washington service scholars award under  
34 sections 2 through 6 of this act who choose to attend an independent  
35 college or university in this state, as defined in subsection (4) of  
36 this section, and recipients of the award who choose to attend a public

1 college or university in the state may receive grants under this  
2 section if moneys are available. The higher education coordinating  
3 board shall distribute grants to eligible students under this section  
4 from moneys appropriated for this purpose. The individual grants shall  
5 not exceed, on a yearly basis, one thousand dollars. Grants to  
6 recipients attending independent institutions shall be contingent upon  
7 the institution matching on at least a dollar-for-dollar basis, either  
8 with actual money or by a waiver of fees, the amount of the grant  
9 received by the student from the state. The higher education  
10 coordinating board shall establish procedures, by rule, to disburse the  
11 awards as direct grants to the students.

12 (2) To qualify for the grant, recipients shall enter the in-state  
13 college or university within three years of high school graduation.  
14 Grants shall be awarded only during the first year of study at the  
15 college or university.

16 (3) No grant may be awarded to any student who is pursuing a degree  
17 in theology.

18 (4) As used in this section, "independent college or university"  
19 means a private, nonprofit educational institution, the main campus of  
20 which is permanently situated in the state, open to residents of the  
21 state, providing programs of education beyond the high school level  
22 leading at least to the baccalaureate degree, and accredited by the  
23 northwest association of schools and colleges as of June 30, 1999, and  
24 other institutions as may be developed that are approved by the higher  
25 education coordinating board as meeting equivalent standards as those  
26 institutions accredited under this section.

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

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The sum of seventy-three thousand five  
30 hundred dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is  
31 appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, from the general  
32 fund to the higher education coordinating board to provide service  
33 scholarships of not more than five hundred dollars to three students in  
34 each legislative district.

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