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SENATE BILL 5655

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl-Welles, Shin, Bauer, B. Sheldon, Fairley, Jacobsen and Rasmussen

Read first time 02/01/1999. Referred to Committee on Labor & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing access to education for recipients of  
2 temporary assistance for needy families; adding new sections to chapter  
3 74.08A RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The department shall establish the parents  
6 as scholars program. The goal of the program is to help parents, who  
7 are also students, and who have dependent children in need, receive up  
8 to a two-year undergraduate education. The department shall provide  
9 parents enrolled at a community or technical college with a package of  
10 student aid that includes direct aid for living expenses equal to that  
11 provided under this chapter, as well as the other support services  
12 provided to recipients of temporary assistance for needy families,  
13 including but not limited to medical assistance, child care, food  
14 stamps, and other support services.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The parents as scholars program shall be  
16 supported with funds other than those granted to the state under Title  
17 IV-A of the federal social security act, provided that the state funds

1 used for this program are counted, without penalty, toward the state's  
2 federal maintenance of effort requirement.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) Families that qualify for temporary  
4 assistance for needy families under this chapter may participate in the  
5 parents as scholars program in lieu of the temporary assistance for  
6 needy families. Eligibility for assistance, and the amount of  
7 assistance, shall be determined under criteria used in the temporary  
8 assistance for needy families program.

9 (2) The department shall assess the applicant to determine that the  
10 community or technical college education and training sought by the  
11 applicant is likely to result in employment that provides the wages and  
12 benefits necessary for the applicant to support the applicant's family  
13 without public assistance.

14 (3) To the extent that funds are available, enrollment in the  
15 program shall be granted if the department determines that:

16 (a) The applicant does not possess the necessary skills to obtain  
17 employment that will enable that individual to support a family at  
18 seventy-five percent of the median family income in the state for a  
19 family of the same size as the applicant's family;

20 (b) Considering potential employment opportunities and local labor  
21 market conditions, the undergraduate education sought by the individual  
22 is likely to improve the ability of the family to be self-supporting;  
23 and

24 (c) The applicant has the aptitude to successfully complete the  
25 proposed program at a community or technical college.

26 The applicant shall meet the requirements for the state need grant  
27 under RCW 28B.10.800 through 28B.10.820 and qualify for acceptance at  
28 a community or technical college in the state.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department shall provide career planning  
30 and counseling services to applicants for, and recipients of,  
31 assistance under sections 1 through 8 of this act to assist them in  
32 choosing an educational plan that is likely to lead to self-  
33 sufficiency, and provide to students who have begun an educational  
34 program assistance to overcome barriers to completing the program and  
35 becoming employed. The department may work with other state and local  
36 entities to provide the planning and counseling services.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    Students receiving assistance under sections  
2 1 through 8 of this act shall meet the following requirements:

3        (1) They must participate in some combination of education,  
4 training, study, or work experience for at least twenty hours per week;  
5 and

6        (2) They must be enrolled full-time, with the expectation that they  
7 make satisfactory progress toward a two-year degree.

8        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**    The department shall inform all persons  
9 applying for or participating in the temporary assistance for needy  
10 families program of the option to apply for the parents as scholars  
11 program.

12        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 7.**    To the extent permitted by federal law,  
13 assistance received under sections 1 through 8 of this act must be  
14 disregarded as income and excluded as a resource or asset to the same  
15 extent as assistance under the temporary assistance for needy families  
16 program, under this chapter, for the purposes of any state, federal,  
17 tribal, or municipal assistance program. Assistance received under  
18 sections 1 through 8 of this act must be treated in the same manner as  
19 assistance received under the temporary assistance for needy families  
20 program under this chapter for all tax purposes. Furthermore, the  
21 department shall implement the program so participants can qualify for  
22 food stamps.

23        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 8.**    The department shall adopt rules to  
24 implement sections 1 through 7 of this act.

25        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 9.**    Sections 1 through 8 of this act are each  
26 added to chapter 74.08A RCW.

27        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 10.**    If any part of this act is found to be in  
28 conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to  
29 the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of  
30 this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with  
31 respect to the agencies directly affected, and this finding does not  
32 affect the operation of the remainder of this act in its application to  
33 the agencies concerned. Rules adopted under this act must meet federal

1 requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal  
2 funds by the state.

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