
SENATE BILL 6620

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Kohl-Welles, Thibaudeau, Eide, Winsley, Sheahan, B. Sheldon, Bauer, Finkbeiner, Spanel, Haugen, Kline, McCaslin, Rossi, Stevens, T. Sheldon, Patterson, Franklin, Hochstatter, Jacobsen, Oke and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/20/2000. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to conditional scholarships for classified
2 employees; and adding a new chapter to Title 28B RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that encouraging
5 outstanding classified school employees to enter the teaching
6 profession is of paramount importance to the state of Washington. By
7 creating the classified employees as future teachers conditional
8 scholarship program, the legislature intends to assist in the effort to
9 recruit as future teachers persons who have shown great dedication and
10 skill working in schools and who have distinguished themselves through
11 outstanding achievements and service.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires
13 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this
14 chapter.

15 (1) "Conditional scholarship" means a loan that is forgiven in
16 whole or in part if the recipient renders service as a teacher in an
17 approved education program in this state.

1 (2) "Institution of higher education" or "institution" means a
2 college or university in the state of Washington which is accredited by
3 an accrediting association recognized as such by rule of the higher
4 education coordinating board.

5 (3) "Board" means the higher education coordinating board.

6 (4) "Classified employee" means an employee of a school district or
7 educational service district who does not hold a teaching certificate
8 and has a declared intention to complete an approved preparation
9 program leading to initial teacher certification or required for
10 earning an additional endorsement.

11 (5) "Public school" means an elementary school, a middle school, a
12 junior high school, or a high school within the public school system
13 referred to in Article IX of the state Constitution.

14 (6) "Forgiven" or "to forgive" or "forgiveness" means to render
15 service as a teacher in an approved education program in the state of
16 Washington in lieu of monetary repayment.

17 (7) "Satisfied" means paid-in-full.

18 (8) "Participant" means an eligible classified employee who has
19 received a conditional scholarship under this chapter.

20 (9) "Approved education program" means an education program in the
21 state of Washington for knowledge and skills generally learned in
22 preschool through twelfth grade. Approved education programs may
23 include but are not limited to:

24 (a) K-12 schools under Title 28A RCW;

25 (b) Early childhood education and assistance programs under RCW
26 28A.215.100 through 28A.215.200 or the federal head start program;

27 (c) An approved school under chapter 28A.195 RCW;

28 (d) Education centers under chapter 28A.205 RCW;

29 (e) English as a second language programs and programs leading to
30 high school graduation or the equivalency operated by community or
31 technical colleges; and

32 (f) Tribal schools in Washington approved by the federal bureau of
33 Indian affairs.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The classified employees as future teachers
35 conditional scholarship program is established. The program shall be
36 administered by the board. In administering the program, the board
37 shall have the following powers and duties:

1 (1) Select classified employees to receive conditional
2 scholarships, with the assistance of a screening committee composed of
3 teachers, administrators, classified employees, and leaders in
4 government, business, and education;

5 (2) Adopt necessary rules and guidelines;

6 (3) Publicize the program;

7 (4) Collect and manage repayments from participants who do not meet
8 their teaching obligations under this chapter; and

9 (5) Solicit and accept grants and donations from public and private
10 sources for the program.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The board shall establish a planning
12 committee to develop criteria for the screening and selection of
13 recipients of the conditional scholarships. These criteria shall
14 emphasize factors demonstrating excellence including but not limited to
15 leadership ability, community contributions, and an ability to act as
16 a role model for all students. These criteria also may include, for
17 approximately half of the recipients, requirements that those
18 recipients meet the definition of "needy student" under RCW 28B.10.802.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The board may waive grade point requirements
20 for an otherwise eligible individual under special circumstances.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The board may award conditional scholarships
22 to eligible classified employees from the funds appropriated to the
23 board for this purpose, or from any private donations, or any other
24 funds given to the board for this program. The amount of the
25 conditional scholarship awarded an individual shall not exceed three
26 thousand dollars per academic year. Students are eligible to receive
27 conditional scholarships for a maximum of five years.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) Participants in the conditional
29 scholarship program incur an obligation to repay the conditional
30 scholarship, with interest, unless they teach for two years in an
31 approved education program for each year of scholarship received, under
32 rules adopted by the board.

33 (2) The interest rate shall be eight percent for the first four
34 years of repayment and ten percent beginning with the fifth year of
35 repayment.

1 (3) The period for repayment shall be ten years, with payments of
2 principal and interest accruing quarterly commencing nine months from
3 the date the participant completes or discontinues the course of study.
4 Provisions for deferral of payment shall be determined by the board.

5 (4) The entire principal and interest of each payment shall be
6 forgiven for each payment period in which the participant teaches in an
7 approved education program until the entire repayment obligation is
8 satisfied. Should the participant cease to teach in an approved
9 education program in this state before the participant's repayment
10 obligation is completed, payments on the unsatisfied portion of the
11 principal and interest shall begin the next payment period and continue
12 until the remainder of the participant's repayment obligation is
13 satisfied.

14 (5) The board is responsible for collection of repayments made
15 under this section and shall exercise due diligence in such collection,
16 maintaining all necessary records to ensure that maximum repayments are
17 made. Collection and servicing of repayments under this section shall
18 be pursued using the full extent of the law, including wage garnishment
19 if necessary. The board is responsible to forgive all or parts of such
20 repayments under the criteria established in this section and shall
21 maintain all necessary records of forgiven payments.

22 (6) Receipts from the payment of principal or interest or any other
23 subsidies to which the board as administrator is entitled, which are
24 paid by or on behalf of participants under this section, shall be
25 deposited with the board and shall be used to cover the costs of
26 granting the conditional scholarships, maintaining necessary records,
27 and making collections under subsection (5) of this section. The board
28 shall maintain accurate records of these costs, and all receipts beyond
29 those necessary to pay such costs shall be used to grant conditional
30 scholarships to eligible students.

31 (7) The board shall temporarily or, in special circumstances,
32 permanently defer the requirements of this section for eligible
33 students as defined in RCW 28B.10.017.

34 (8) The board may cancel a recipient's repayment obligation due to
35 the recipient's total and permanent disability or death, subject to
36 documentation as required by the board.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 1 through 7 of this act constitute
2 a new chapter in Title 28B RCW.

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