
HOUSE BILL 2534

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Representatives Kenney, Cox, Kagi, Chase, Tokuda, Jarrett, Conway, Morell, Ogden, Edwards, Kessler, Haigh, Voloria, McIntire, Schual-Berke, Wood, Santos, McDermott and Linville

Read first time 01/21/2002. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to gaining independence for students by
2 establishing an educational assistance grant program for students with
3 dependents; and adding a new chapter to Title 28B RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** FINDING--INTENT. The legislature finds that
6 financially needy students, especially those with dependents, are
7 finding it increasingly difficult to stay in school due to the high
8 expenses of caring for their dependent children.

9 The legislature intends to establish an educational assistance
10 grant program for students with dependents who are eligible for the
11 state need grant and who have additional financial needs due to the
12 care they provide for their dependents eighteen years of age or
13 younger.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** PROGRAM CREATED. The educational assistance
15 grant program for students with dependents is hereby created to serve
16 financially needy students with dependents eighteen years of age or
17 younger, by assisting them directly through a grant program to pursue

1 a degree or certificate at institutions of higher education as defined
2 in RCW 28B.10.016 that participate in the state need grant program.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** DEFINITION--ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible for
4 the educational assistance grant program for students with dependents,
5 applicants must be residents of the state of Washington who are needy
6 students as defined in RCW 28B.10.802(3) and meet all of the
7 eligibility requirements under the state need grant as established by
8 the higher education coordinating board.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM--PAYMENTS TO
10 PARTICIPANTS. (1) The higher education coordinating board shall
11 develop and administer the educational assistance grant program for
12 students with dependents. The higher education coordinating board
13 shall adopt necessary rules and guidelines and develop criteria and
14 procedures to identify eligible participants in the program.

15 (2) Any funds appropriated by the legislature for the educational
16 assistance grant program for students with dependents or any other
17 public or private funds intended for awards to students under this
18 program shall be placed in the account created by this section.

19 (3) The educational assistance grant program for students with
20 dependents account is created in the custody of the state treasurer.
21 All receipts from the program shall be deposited into the account.
22 Only the higher education coordinating board, or its designee, may
23 authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to
24 allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is
25 required for expenditures.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** USE OF GRANTS. The educational assistance
27 grant program for students with dependents grants may be used by
28 eligible participants to attend any public or private college or
29 university in the state of Washington that is accredited by an
30 accrediting association recognized by rule of the higher education
31 coordinating board and participates in the state need grant program.
32 The participant is not eligible for a grant if it will be used to
33 pursue a degree in theology. Each participating student may receive an
34 amount to be determined by the higher education coordinating board,
35 with a minimum amount of one thousand dollars per academic year, or not

1 to exceed the student's documented financial need for the course of
2 study as determined by the institution.

3 Educational assistance grants for students with dependents are not
4 intended to supplant any grant scholarship or tax program related to
5 postsecondary education. If the higher education coordinating board
6 finds that the educational assistance grants for students with
7 dependents supplant or reduce any grant, scholarship, or tax program
8 for categories of students, then the higher education coordinating
9 board shall adjust the financial eligibility criteria or the amount of
10 the grant to the level necessary to avoid supplanting.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This chapter may be known and cited as the
12 gaining independence for students with dependents program.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Captions used in this act are not any part
14 of the law.

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

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