
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5660

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Senators Kohl-Welles, Carlson, B. Sheldon, Schmidt, Shin, Mulliken, Horn, Kline, Prentice and Winsley)

READ FIRST TIME 03/04/03.

1 AN ACT Relating to gaining independence for students by
2 establishing an educational assistance grant program for students with
3 dependents; amending RCW 28B.10.801; adding a new section to chapter
4 74.04 RCW; and adding a new chapter to Title 28B RCW.

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

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

10 The legislature intends to establish an educational assistance
11 grant program, funded through gifts, grants, or endowments from private
12 sources, for students with dependents who have additional financial
13 needs due to the care they provide for their dependents eighteen years
14 of age or younger.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** PROGRAM CREATED. The educational assistance
16 grant program for students with dependents is hereby created, subject
17 to the availability of receipts of gifts, grants, or endowments from
18 private sources. The program is created to serve financially needy

1 students with dependents eighteen years of age or younger, by assisting
2 them directly through a grant program to pursue a degree or certificate
3 at public or private institutions of higher education, as defined in
4 RCW 28B.10.802, that participate in the state need grant program.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** DEFINITION--ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible for
6 the educational assistance grant program for students with dependents,
7 applicants shall: (1) Be residents of the state of Washington; (2) be
8 needy students as defined in RCW 28B.10.802(3); (3) be eligible to
9 participate in the state need grant program as set forth under RCW
10 28B.10.810; and (4) have dependents eighteen years of age or younger
11 who are under their care.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** ACCOUNT CREATION. (1) The students with
13 dependents grant account is created in the custody of the state
14 treasurer. All receipts from the program shall be deposited into the
15 account. Only the higher education coordinating board, or its
16 designee, may authorize expenditures from the account. Disbursements
17 from the account are exempt from appropriations and the allotment
18 procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW.

19 (2) The board may solicit and receive gifts, grants, or endowments
20 from private sources that are made from time to time, in trust or
21 otherwise, for the use and benefit of the purposes of the educational
22 assistance grant program. The executive director, or the executive
23 director's designee, may spend gifts, grants, or endowments or income
24 from the private sources according to their terms unless the receipt of
25 the gifts, grants, or endowments violates RCW 42.17.710.

26 (3) The earnings on the account shall be used solely for the
27 purposes in section 2 of this act, except when the terms of a
28 conditional gift of private moneys in the account require that a
29 portion of earnings on such moneys be reinvested in the account.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM--PAYMENTS TO
31 PARTICIPANTS. The higher education coordinating board shall develop
32 and administer the educational assistance grant program for students
33 with dependents. In administering the program, once the balance in the
34 students with dependents grant account is five hundred thousand

1 dollars, the board's powers and duties shall include but not be limited
2 to:

- 3 (1) Adopting necessary rules and guidelines;
- 4 (2) Publicizing the program;
- 5 (3) Accepting and depositing donations into the grant account
6 established in section 4 of this act;
- 7 (4) Soliciting and accepting grants and donations from private
8 sources for the program; and
- 9 (5) Creating an advisory committee to solicit grants and donations
10 from private sources and assist the board in the overall administration
11 of the program.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** USE OF GRANTS. The educational assistance
13 grant program for students with dependents grants may be used by
14 eligible participants to attend any public or private college or
15 university in the state of Washington as defined in RCW 28B.10.802.
16 Each participating student may receive an amount to be determined by
17 the higher education coordinating board, with a minimum amount of one
18 thousand dollars per academic year, not to exceed the student's
19 documented financial need for the course of study as determined by the
20 institution.

21 Educational assistance grants for students with dependents are not
22 intended to supplant any grant scholarship or tax program related to
23 postsecondary education. If the higher education coordinating board
24 finds that the educational assistance grants for students with
25 dependents supplant or reduce any grant, scholarship, or tax program
26 for categories of students, then the higher education coordinating
27 board shall adjust the financial eligibility criteria or the amount of
28 the grant to the level necessary to avoid supplanting.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This chapter may be known and cited as the
30 gaining independence for students with dependents program.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** A new section is added to chapter 74.04 RCW
32 to read as follows:

33 For purposes of RCW 74.04.005 (10) and (11), "resource" and
34 "income" do not include educational assistance awarded under the

1 gaining independence for students with dependents program as defined in
2 this act for recipients of temporary assistance for needy families.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Captions used in this act are not any part
4 of the law.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** Sections 1 through 7 and 9 of this act
6 constitute a new chapter in Title 28B RCW.

7 **Sec. 11.** RCW 28B.10.801 and 1999 c 345 s 1 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

9 (1) The legislature finds that the higher education coordinating
10 board, in consultation with the higher education community, has
11 completed a review of the state need grant program. It is the intent
12 of the legislature to endorse the board's proposed changes to the state
13 need grant program, including:

14 (a) Reaffirmation that the primary purpose of the state need grant
15 program is to assist low-income, needy, and disadvantaged Washington
16 residents attending institutions of higher education;

17 (b) A goal that the base state need grant amount over time be
18 increased to be equivalent to the rate of tuition charged to resident
19 undergraduate students attending Washington state public colleges and
20 universities;

21 (c) State need grant recipients be required to contribute a portion
22 of the total cost of their education through self-help;

23 (d) State need grant recipients be required to document their need
24 for dependent care assistance after taking into account other public
25 funds provided for like purposes; and

26 (e) Institutional aid administrators be allowed to determine
27 whether a student eligible for a state need grant in a given academic
28 year may remain eligible for the ensuing year if the student's family
29 income increases by no more than a marginal amount except for funds
30 provided through the educational assistance grant program for students
31 with dependents.

32 (2) The legislature further finds that the higher education
33 coordinating board, under its authority to implement the proposed
34 changes in subsection (1) of this section, should do so in a timely
35 manner.

1 (3) The legislature also finds that:

2 (a) In most circumstances, need grant eligibility should not extend
3 beyond five years or one hundred twenty-five percent of the published
4 length of the program in which the student is enrolled or the credit or
5 clock-hour equivalent; and

6 (b) State financial aid programs should continue to adhere to the
7 principle that funding follows resident students to their choice of
8 institution of higher education.

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