
SENATE BILL 6165

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2004 Regular Session

By Senators Benton, Carlson, Kohl-Welles, Roach, Rasmussen and Parlette

Read first time 01/14/2004. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing the higher education coordinating board
2 to establish rules for promise scholarship awards to individuals with
3 special needs; amending RCW 28B.119.010; and providing an effective
4 date.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.119.010 and 2003 c 233 s 5 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 The higher education coordinating board shall design the Washington
9 promise scholarship program based on the following parameters:

10 (1) Scholarships shall be awarded to students graduating from
11 public and approved private high schools under chapter 28A.195 RCW,
12 students participating in home-based instruction as provided in chapter
13 28A.200 RCW, and persons twenty-one years of age or younger receiving
14 a GED certificate, who meet both an academic and a financial
15 eligibility criteria.

16 (a) Academic eligibility criteria shall be defined as follows:

17 (i) Beginning with the graduating class of 2002, students
18 graduating from public and approved private high schools under chapter

1 28A.195 RCW must be in the top fifteen percent of their graduating
2 class, as identified by each respective high school at the completion
3 of the first term of the student's senior year; or

4 (ii) Students graduating from public high schools, approved private
5 high schools under chapter 28A.195 RCW, students participating in home-
6 based instruction as provided in chapter 28A.200 RCW, and persons
7 twenty-one years of age or younger receiving a GED certificate, must
8 equal or exceed a cumulative scholastic assessment test I score of
9 twelve hundred on their first attempt or must equal or exceed a
10 composite American college test score of twenty-seven on their first
11 attempt.

12 (b) To meet the financial eligibility criteria, a student's family
13 income shall not exceed one hundred thirty-five percent of the state
14 median family income adjusted for family size, as determined by the
15 higher education coordinating board for each graduating class.
16 Students not meeting the eligibility requirements for the first year of
17 scholarship benefits may reapply for the second year of benefits, but
18 must still meet the income standard set by the board for the student's
19 graduating class.

20 (2) Promise scholarships are not intended to supplant any grant,
21 scholarship, or tax program related to postsecondary education. If the
22 board finds that promise scholarships supplant or reduce any grant,
23 scholarship, or tax program for categories of students, then the board
24 shall adjust the financial eligibility criteria or the amount of
25 scholarship to the level necessary to avoid supplanting.

26 (3) Within available funds, each qualifying student shall receive
27 two consecutive annual awards, the value of each not to exceed the
28 full-time annual resident tuition rates charged by Washington's
29 community colleges. The higher education coordinating board shall
30 award scholarships to as many students as possible from among those
31 qualifying under this section.

32 (4) By October 15th of each year, the board shall determine the
33 award amount of the scholarships, after taking into consideration the
34 availability of funds.

35 (5) The scholarships may only be used for undergraduate coursework
36 at accredited institutions of higher education in the state of
37 Washington.

1 (6) The scholarships may be used for undergraduate coursework at
2 Oregon institutions of higher education that are part of the border
3 county higher education opportunity project in RCW 28B.80.806 when
4 those institutions offer programs not available at accredited
5 institutions of higher education in Washington state.

6 (7) The board at its discretion may allow the scholarship to be
7 used for undergraduate education at Oregon and Idaho institutions,
8 located in counties adjacent to the Washington border, in order to
9 accommodate otherwise eligible students with special needs due to
10 documented disabilities. The board may establish rules regarding
11 acceptable documentation of disabilities and the special needs.

12 (8) The scholarships may be used for college-related expenses,
13 including but not limited to, tuition, room and board, books, and
14 materials.

15 ((+8)) (9) The scholarships may not be awarded to any student who
16 is pursuing a degree in theology.

17 ((+9)) (10) The higher education coordinating board may establish
18 satisfactory progress standards for the continued receipt of the
19 promise scholarship.

20 ((+10)) (11) The higher education coordinating board shall
21 establish the time frame within which the student must use the
22 scholarship.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act takes effect January 1, 2004.

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